NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3 3433 08180528 9

THE COLLECTION OF
Theodorus Bailey Myers
PRESENTED BY
HIS WIDOW
Catalina Juliana Mason Myers
HIS DAUGHTER
Cassie Mason Myers Julian-James
HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
Edmonia Taylor Phelps Mason
TO THE
New York Public Library
ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
IN MEMORY OF
Theodorus Bailey Myers
AND HIS SON
Theodorus Bailey Myers Mason
LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVY
1899

11H
Fay

COLLECTION

OF THE

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS,

IN DETAIL, OF ALL THE

BATTLES

FOUGHT BY SEA AND LAND,

BETWEEN THE

NAVY AND ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND THE

NAVY AND ARMY OF GREAT BRITAIN,

During the Years 1812, 13, 14, & 15.

BY H. A. FAY,
Late Capt. in the Corps of U. S. Artillerists.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY E. CONRAD,

1817.

THE
NEW-YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW-YORK, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the twenty-ninth day of April, in the forty-first year of the Independence of the United States of America, H. A. Fay, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author and proprietor, in the words and figures following, to wit: "Collection of the official accounts, in detail, of all the "battles fought, by sea and land, between the navy and army of the United "States, and the navy and army of Great Britain, during the years 1812, 13, "14, and 15. By H. A. Fay, late Capt. in the corps of U. S. Artillerists."— *In conformity to the Act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to an act, entitled "an Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."*

THERON RUDD,
Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

PREFACE.

WHETHER the reader approved, or disapproved of the causes, conduct, and issue of the late war, is not so material at present—as it is, that he should have it in his power, for a very moderate sum, to preserve, for his own and his children's use, the very skeleton aud *soul* of the history of the war, by this record of the most extraordinary actions ever fought; nor is it conceived, that any man, with *American* feelings, can object to a collection of this kind.

It was no part of my object to write a *history:* this should not be attempted but by a MARSHAL, CLINTON, RAMSAY, or other eminent writer, who could, without prejudice or partiality, state the *whole* grounds of the war—the manner in which it was conducted—the events which happened between the actions herein recorded, with the political and other effects which the war itself produced on the people of the United States.

This, therefore, is only a collection of the "Official Accounts, in detail, of all the battles fought, by sea and land," during the late war, as given by the officer who commanded in each action, or, (in case of his death,) by the next in command.

Nor did I think proper to add a single comment of my own—choosing rather to leave the reader to make his own remarks, and form his own opinion, from a simple statement of facts, as given to the people by those whose duty and whose honor were deeply concerned in giving correct statements; nor is it proper (as some have done) to alter the style of these communications, not even in a single word; because, from the composition itself, much may be seen of the character of the writers.

I am happy, however, in this opportunity, to state my belief, that the actions, herein detailed, are reported with less partiality than were ever a like number of actions by any other nation; but this only shews my opinion of American officers, compared with others.

It would be very satisfactory to have a genuine collection, of similar events, during our revolutionary war—the *general result* has been stated by Ramsay and Gordon; but, I believe, there never has been collected a detailed account of the actions fought—hence the names of those (especially subalterns) who distinguished themselves, have not been made kown, except in very extraordinary cases; and it is one prime object, in publishing this collection, to do *justice to all, of every grade*, that their names may be always remembered by the American people.

Besides, a *complete history* of the war will form a work, which will be beyond the means of the majority of the people to purchase. This collection was put low, with a view of obviating that objection, and placing it within the means of almost every man; and, if I may be allowed to recommend a book to be used in our schools, I know of none better calculated to keep alive the true *national feelings*, than the one here presented.

Instead of publishing in duodecimo form, as at first proposed, it was thought advisable to make it an octavo, with a larger type, and a much fairer page—the cost, to me, is more; but, if the work has a tendency (as I believe it will) to disseminate, and keep alive the national feeling, a main object is answered. The collection was made for my own use, as a soldier, without reference to, or intention of publication—I wish it may prove useful to others.

H. A. FAY.

INDEX.

Actions fought at Detroit, Fort Meigs, and within their vicinity.

	PAGE.
Battle of Brownstown - - - -	9
General Hull's Surrender - - - -	25
Brock's Account of Hull's Surrender -	26
Captain Z. Taylor's Defence of Fort Harrison -	29
Colonel Russell against the Indians - - -	53
General Hopkins against the Indians - -	58
Captain Heald's Defeat, by the Indians - -	65
Defeat of Gen. Winchester - - - -	73
Further particulars of Winchester's Defeat -	75
General Harrison's Account of an Attack upon Fort Meigs - - - - - -	88
Second Letter, on the same subject - -	90
Colonel Dudley's Defeat - - - -	92
Croghan's Defence of Sandusky - - -	117
Declaration of War by the Six Nations - -	119
Fort Malden taken - - - - -	127
Defeat of Gen. Proctor - - - -	128
Treaty with the Indians at Detroit -	*ib.*
General Harrison's Detailed Report of the Defeat of Gen. Proctor - - - - -	133
Captain Holmes, on the river De French - -	178

Actions fought on the Niagara, at Sacket's Harbor, and their vicinity.

Battle of Queenstown - - - -	33
Attack upon Fort Niagara - - - -	56

PAGE.
Winding up of Gen. Smyth's Affairs - - 61
Capture of two British armed vessels, on the Niagara strait, by Capt. Elliott, and others - - 67
Capture of York, U. Canada - - - 81
Terms of Capitulation (York) - - - 85
Loss of the Enemy, in the above Capture - - 86
Capture of Fort George (U. C.) - - - 95
Proceedings, after the capture of Fort George - - 100
Defence of Sacket's Harbor - - - - 101
Capture of Generals Chandler and Winder - 104
Movements of Gen. Lewis, subsequent to the capture of Chandler and Winder - - - - 105
Colonel Boerstler's Surrender - - - 112
Major Chapin's Escape - - - - 114
Scott and Chauncey's Expedition to Burlington Bay (U. C.) 116
Commodore Chauncey and Sir James Yeo—skirmishing 126
Loss of Fort Niagara - - - - 165
Destruction of Buffaloe - - - - 167
Colonel Mitchell, at Oswego - - - 188
Major Appling, at Sandy Creek - - - 191
Battle at Chippewa. July, 1814 - - - 209
General Brown's Detailed Report of the above - 212
After movements of Gen. Brown's army - - 216
General Brown's Disappointment, in not having the fleet on Lake Ontario to assist him - - - 217
Battle of Bridgewater - - - - 218
Detailed Report of the Battle of Bridgewater - 219
Battle at Fort Erie (U. C.) - - - 228
Sortie at Fort Erie - - - - - 240
Detailed Report of the Sortie at Fort Erie - 254
Affair near Chippewa - - - - 264
General Izard's Account of the above Affair - 265

Actions on the St. Lawrence, Plattsburgh, and their vicinity.

Affair at St. Regis - - - - - 40
Colonel Clark's Expedition, and success - - 142
General Wilkinson's Proclamation - - - 145
Action at Williamsburgh (U. C.) - - 146
Correspondence between Generals Wilkinson and Hampton, on the proposed junction of their armies - 151
General Hampton's Affair at Chatauguay - 155
Wilkinson, at La Colle Mill . - 181

PAGE.
His General Order - - - - - 184
Defence of Fort Moreau - - - - 236
General Macomb's Detailed Account of the above 241

Naval Actions.

Capture of the Sloop of war Alert, by the Essex - 27
Guerrier, by the Constitution - *ib.*
Commodore Chauncey, on Lake Ontario - - 42
Capture of the Frolic, by the Wasp - - - 44
Macedonian, by the United States - 54
Java, by the Constitution - - 71
Peacock, by the Hornet - - 77
American Gun-boats, with the Frigate Junon - 109
Loss of the Frigate Chesapeake - - - 110
Capture of the English Schooner, Lady Murray 112
a British Tender - - - 113
Gun-boat, on Lake Ontario - - 115
the Dominico - - - 120
Boxer - - - - *ib.*
Commodore Perry's Victory, on Lake Erie - 122
Loss of the Argus—British Account - - 127
Re-capture of the Julia and Growler - - 129
Commodore Chauncey and Sir James L. Yeo—the former having the latter in his power - 130
Capture of the British Brig Morgiana - - 141
Epervier - - - - 185
Commodore Barney's Flotilla, with Enemy's Frigates 192
Destruction of a Gun-boat, on Lake Ontario - 193
Captain Porter's Cruise, and Loss of the Essex - 194
Captain Hillyar's Complimentary Letter - - 209
Destruction of a vessel (building) at Presque-Isle 210
Frigate Adams destroyed - - - - 235
M'Donough's Victory - - - - 236
His Detailed Report - - - - 237
Capture of the Reindeer - - - - 259
Further Account of the Wasp's Cruise - - 266
Privateer General Armstrong - - - 269
Account of do. by an English Gentleman 274
Capture of the Penguin, by the Hornet - - 287
Cyane and Levant, by the Constitution 288

Southern War.

PAGE.
Colonel Newman's Expedition against the Indians 46
Capture of the Plantagenet's Barge, &c. - - 115
General Coffee against the Indians - - 143
White do. - - - 159
General Floyd's Victory over the Creeks - 161
Claiborne against the Indians - - 168
Floyd's Victory over the Creeks - *ib.*
Jackson against the Creeks - - - 170
do. do. - - - 179
Colonel Pearson against the Indians - - - 219
Affair of Bladensburgh - - - - 225
Attack on Baltimore - - - - 247
Colonel Armistead's Defence of Fort M'Henry - 251
Defence of Fort Bowyer - - - - 259
Account of the Action at Fort Bowyer - - - 262
Destruction of the Pirates of Barrataria - - 263
Action of the 23d December, near New-Orleans - 277
General Jackson's Detailed Report - - 278
Further Proceedings, December 29 - - - 281
Battle of January 8th, near Orleans - - - *ib.*
Detailed Report of the above action - - 284
Decampment of the Enemy - - - - 286

Miscellaneous.

Rupture with Algiers—cause of - - - 40
General Miller's demand upon Sir J. B. Warren for O'Neale, a prisoner, and Sir J. B's reply - 87

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

BATTLE OF BROWNSTOWN.

I am indebted for the following account of the battle of Brownstown, to Major James Dalliba, who was in the action, and who has published it under the inspection of General James Miller, who commanded the American forces in said action.

A part of Major Dalliba's account is omitted here, because it more properly belongs to the historian to record.

THE PUBLISHER.

The object of publishing the following narrative, is, to relate a simple story of facts, which are not generally known ; and which, I think, cannot but be interesting to those who take the trouble to read it.

I have often conversed with gentlemen of intelligence on the subject of the campaign of the North Western Army, under the command of General Hull, in 1812, who appeared to possess but very little correct information relative to the transactions of that army.

So little was said about it at the time, that the impression on the public mind, that such an event ever occurred, is nearly lost. The distance of the scene from the populous parts of the country, and the interruption to them, by the enemy, confined the intelligence of the engagement to the army, and to the few inhabitants of the territory of

Michigan, until it was brought out by the parolled prisoners of war, after the fatal surrender of the army and of the territory, to the enemy, by general Hull.

The little spark of intelligence, though brilliant, was then so completely enveloped in the general darkness that pervaded the United States, that it shone but faintly, and the impressions it made on the minds of the people were superficial.

The communication with the state of Ohio (and the United States army at Detroit depended for provisions upon its being kept open,) was completely blocked up; the provisions for the supply of Hull's army, under a convoy of 200 men, commanded by Captain Brush of the Ohio Volunteers, were waiting at the River Raisin, 36 miles from Detroit; Major Van Horne had been dispatched a day or two before, with a small command, to the assistance of Captain Brush, but was defeated and driven back.

General Hull now saw it necessary to turn his serious attention to that point; and to send a force to open this communication, which was fully competent to the task, both to enable the supplies to pass unmolested, and to counteract the unfavorable impressions made on the minds of the troops by the defeat of Major Van Horne.

He accordingly detached from the army a part of the regular troops, the Michigan legion and some riflemen, and dragoons of the Ohio volunteers, making in the whole about 600 men, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James Miller, of the 4th regiment U. S. Infantry, for this object.

The 4th regiment, except one company left at Sandwich, to garrison a small fort, built by order of General Hull; a small detachment of the 1st Infantry, and a small number of Artillerists from Captain Dyson's company stationed in fort Detroit, formed the regular troops of the detachment, amounting to about 300 in number. The Michigan legion consisted of about 60 men, mostly native Frenchmen of that territory, commanded by Captain De Cant. The cavalry consisted of about 40 dragoons and mounted spies, commanded by Captain Sloan, of the corps of volunteer cavalry. The riflemen amounted to about

200, commanded by Major Morrison, of the Ohio volunteers, making the 600 men.

Colonel Miller obtained permission from General Hull to take two field pieces with the detachment, one 6 pounder and one 5 1-2 inch howitzer, with their appendages and ammunition. The first was manned by a squad of artillerists from Captain Dyson's company, detached from fort Detroit, and commanded by Lieutenant Jonathan Eastman; that corps and the second was manned by a squad picked from the first Infantry (the General refusing to detach from the 1st any more Artillerists) and was placed under the command of Lieutenant James Dalliba, of the regiment of Artillerists, then serving as master of ordnance to General Hull's army. Captain Brevoort, of the 2d U. S. Infantry, then commanding the transports on the lakes; and Captain Abraham P. Hull, of the 13th Infantry, son and aid to the general, volunteered their services as aids de camp to Colonel Miller. Lieutenant John L. Eastman, adjutant of the 4th Infantry, served as brigade major. Captain Maxwell, of the Ohio volunteers, a revolutionary officer, and who had served in the Indian war under General Wayne and others, was chosen to lead the spies, to reconnoitre the country a-head of the detachment, and point out the rout of march: he was assisted by several volunteer citizens from Detroit, well acquainted with the country.

The detachment having drawn two day's provisions, being organized, and every thing prepared for the march, was paraded in line in order of march, as to the station of corps, in the main street in the town of Detroit, on the 8th of August, 1812, at 5 o'clock P. M. Colonel Miller then rode to the centre, and in front of the line, addressed the troops in the following words: "Soldiers, we are going to meet the enemy, and to beat them! The reverses of the 5th must be repaired!. The blood of your brethren, spilt by savage hands, on that day, must be avenged by their chastisement and by the chastisement of the enemy who employs them, more savage than they! I shall lead you—I trust that no man will disgrace himself or me—every man who is seen to leave the ranks, to give way or

fall back, without orders, shall instantly be put to death. The officers are hereby charged with the execution of this order. My brave soldiers! you have once faced the enemy in a hard conflict, and beaten them, and gained glory to yourselves and honor to your country! Let this opportunity be improved to add another victory to that of *Tippecanoe*, and new glory to that which you gained on the *Wabash*. Soldiers, if there are any now in the ranks of this detachment, who are afraid to meet the enemy, they are now permitted to fall out and stay behind—" At which the words "I'll not stay," ran through the ranks, with a "huzza."

After which the line was wheeled by sections to the right into open column, when Colonel Miller took his position at the head, and ordered the detachment to march. The whole moved off in order and in high spirits, and discovered those ardent feelings to meet the conflict, which inspired a full confidence in the remaining army and anxious citizens, that they would be successful.

The head of the column arrived at the river Rouge, six miles from Detroit, about sun set. There being no bridge, and the water very deep, the detachments were conveyed over in scows; there being but two provided, which would not carry more than 50 men each; it was 10 o'clock at night before the troops, artillery, horses and waggons, were all crossed over. The weather being somewhat rainy and very dark, it was determined to encamp there for the night. The guards and piquets having been stationed, and every arrangement completed for the security of the camp; the men were permitted to lie down upon their arms and rest till day light. The tents and all other dispensable baggage, was left at Detroit. The troops had no other covering than some rails which they took from the fences, to screen them from the weather. Cooks of messes were directed to cook the provisions during the night so as to be ready to march at day break. Accordingly the troops were paraded, and every thing prepared to move in that order, which appeared the best calculated to receive or make an attack, when and wherever the enemy might be met. The following is the order in which

the troops marched : Captain Maxwell, with his mounted spies went a-head, as a van guard, at such a distance as he judged prudent. An advance guard, under Captain Snelling, of the fourth Infantry, of 40 men of his company, marched in line of single rank, 200 yards in advance of, and covering the heads of the columns. The musquetry was formed in two columns of single files, the regulars in front, and marched by files by the right of columns. One column on each side of the road, at 200 yards distance from each other. One commanded by Major Morrison and the other by Major Van Horne, of the Ohio volunteers. The Cavalry under Captain Sloan, marched in the road, in column of double files by the right of column. The head of this column kept in line with the heads of the columns of musquetry on the right and left. Flank guards were formed of riflemen, and marched by single files, headed by the officer commanding each, parallel with the column of musquetry and at the distance of 80 yards from them. A rear guard marched at the distance of 50 yards in the rear of the foot of, and covering the columns of musquetry. The artillery moved in the road, in rear of the cavalry, and opposite the centre of the columns of musquetry, followed by the ammunition waggons, the waggons containing entrenching tools, hospital stores, medicine chests, &c. followed in succession. Colonel Miller marched at the head of the column of cavalry, accompanied by his aids, in the road and in a line with the heads of the columns of musquetry.

The method of forming the line of battle from the order of march, was as follows :

In case an attack was made in front, the advance guard was to stand till the columns of infantry and riflemen formed in lines and marched upon it. The two columns of infantry were to form two lines to the front; the front division of each column were to form the first line, and the rear divisions the second line, which brought the regular troops into the first line. The two lines were to be formed respectively on the centres of the divisions of columns which were to compose them. If the first line should require extending, the right and left devisions of

the second line were to advance and form respectively on the right and left flanks of the first line. If the first line should not require extending, the second line was to form a corps of reserve. The right and left flank guards were to form respectively on the right and left flanks of the front line. The artillery and cavalry were to move to that point by order of the commander in chief, which he should think proper to direct. The rear guard was to protect the waggons and stores. If an attack should be made in rear, the columns were to form lines to the rear, and march upon the rear guard as upon the front and so of other corps. If an attack should be made on either flank, the whole were to halt and the columns face to the enemy; and by so facing they would already be formed in two lines; and the other corps would form as before directed.

In this order the detachment marched from the encampment near the river Rouge, on the morning of the 9th. They proceeded through the White Settlement, which was about five miles, and entered the woods. The country, from the river Rouge to Brownstown, is generally flat, and lies a little above the surface of the river Detroit. Indian huts and fields are interspersed through the woods: at that time the fields were covered with corn, which was grown to 7 and 8 feet high. The first woods which the troops entered was about one mile and a half through. When the advance guard had arrived at the farther edge of this wood, the spies having advanced into the Indian opening, were fired upon by a party of about ten Indians, who were on horseback, and had concealed themselves behind the house of the celebrated chief, Walk-in-the-water. The spies fell back: a citizen from Detroit, who accompanied them, was killed, and fell from his horse. The guard under captain Snelling advanced quickly towards the house, at sight of which, the Indians fled without receiving much injury from the guard, who fired upon them as they were uncovered by the house, bearing away as a trophy, the citizen's scalp whom they had shot. The facility with which the scalp was taken, was astonishing. There appeared not to have been time for the Indian to have reached the spot where

the man fell, before the guard arrived upon the same spot. when the scalp had been taken off, and the Indian fled. When the firing was heard by the columns, the order was given by Colonel Miller to "form the line of battle," which soon ran through the detachment, and was executed promptly; but as the Indians had fled, the firing ceased, and all was silent for a few moments. The spies were again sent forward, but soon returned, and reported that no enemy could be discovered. The troops were again formed in the order of march and moved forward as before. The firmness with which Colonel Miller conducted during this alarm, and his presence of mind, gave the army fresh courage, and increased their confidence in their commander: as also, the promptness and order with which the line of battle was formed, gave him reciprocal confidence in his troops; for every one believed that the enemy had met them in force. This happened about 9 o'clock A. M. The march was continued until 12, without much further interruption. Some flying Indians were discovered now and then, who had been sent out by the enemy to watch the movements of the Americans, and to give information of their approach towards Brownstown; where the enemy, as appeared afterwards, then lay in ambush to receive them. He had crossed over from Malden, and taken that position, on the night of the 7th, the same time the American detachment crossed from Sandwich to Detroit; which clearly proved that he had intelligence of the movement and object of Colonel Miller: for all the Indians, and *their allies*, had recrossed to Malden, after the defeat of Major Van Horne, to celebrate the victory and present the American scalps to the commanding officer of that fort.

The position which the enemy had chosen, lay in an open oak wood, just at the declivity of a rising ground, over which the Americans had to pass. He had thrown up breastworks of trees, logs, &c. behind which he lay concealed in force, and in order of battle. His works were thrown up in form of a *courtine* with two flanks. The line of the *courtine* lay across the road and perpendicularly to it. The banks formed an angle with the *courtine* of about 120. The *courtine* was lined with British regu-

lar troops, two deep, of the 41st regiment of foot, under the command of Major Muer, of that regiment, who had long been in command at Malden. The flank of the *courtine*, on the enemy's right, and American left, was lined with Canadian militia and Indians, commanded by Walk-in-the-water and Marpot. This line was flanked by the river Detroit. Most of the militia were dressed and painted like their "brethren in arms," the savages. The left flank of the courtine was lined entirely by savages, under the command of the celebrated Indian warrior Tecumseh, of the Shawanoese nation. The number of the British regulars and militia amounted to about 300: about 200 regulars. The Indians amounted to 450; making the enemy's force about 750 men.

The position and strength of the enemy were entirely unknown to Colonel Miller and to the army, at this time.

At 12 o'clock, meridian, the detachment arrived at a large opening which contained 4 or 5 Indian houses, gardens and orchards. The army halted to take some refreshment, and to bury the man who had been killed; where they lay about one hour. The village was deserted, and nothing left in the houses of consequence.

The march was again resumed at 1 o'clock P. M. and continued without interruption. The troops marched over the ground on which Major Van Horne had been defeated four days before; and passed the dead bodies of several of the slain, and some dead horses. The body of captain M'Cullock lay under an Indian bark. The columns having arrived at the oak woods near Brownstown, at half past three, some guns were heard a-head by them. In a few seconds a volley was heard from captain Snellings advance guard, and another instantly returned from a great number of pieces. The troops, by this time completely awake, were ordered to halt. Colonel Miller rode towards the centre at full speed, halted, and with a firm voice, ordered the columns to "form the line of battle," which was executed with that order, promptness and zeal, which he had expected: after the first vollies, the firing became incessant in front. Captain Snelling stood his ground till the lines were formed, and moved to his relief. He

stood within pistol shot of the enemy's breastworks, in a shower of balls from the regular troops in his front, who shewed themselves after the first fire, and set up the Indian yell. When the first line appeared before the breastwork, they received the fire of the whole front and a part of the flanks: at this instant Colonel Miller discovered that the enemy outflanked him, when the second line and flank guards were brought upon the flanks of the front line, and extended to meet the whole line of the enemy. The savages, in unison with the British troops, set up a horrid yell, and a severe conflict ensued. The incessant firing in the centre ran diverging to the flanks: from the cracking of individual pieces, it changed to alternate vollies; and at length to one continued sound: and, while every thing seemed hushed amidst the wavering roll, the discharge of the six pounder burst upon the ear. The Americans stood!—At this instant Colonel Miller was thrown from his horse which took fright at the discharge of the artillery; he was supposed to be shot, those near him flew to his aid. The savages who saw him fall sprang over the breastwork to take his scalp, but were driven back. Colonel Miller instantly remounted and returned to continue his orders. The fire from the Indians who were screened by their breastworks, was deadly. The soldiers saw the advantage it gave them, and Colonel Miller, throwing his eye along the line, discovered one or two, edging to place themselves behind a tree. He saw the instant must be improved, and ordered "*charge!*" which instantly ran through the line: the men whom he saw edging, with every other, brought down their pieces, struck up a huzza! and marched directly into the breastworks. The effect of the grape from the six-pounder, and the approach of the bayonet, caused the British line to yield, and then to break, and the troops fled in disorder! at nearly the same instant the Indians and militia on their right flank, being charged in their work, by the Michigan legion, under Captain De Cant, and a part of the Ohio riflemen, turning this flank by the river, fled in confusion. Tecumseh, on the enemy's left flank, stood longer; some of the Indians under his command, near the

extremity of the line, had jumped over the breast-works, in the full assurance of victory: they were driven back, by the point of the bayonet. Tecumseh endeavoured to outflank the American line, and turn their right; but from the skill and gallantry of the officers, and firmness of the men on that flank, he was foiled in every attempt, and was finally forced to fall back, and take new positions, and fight on the retreat. The British and Indians on their right flank, fled directly down the river, and were pursued by Colonel Miller, with that part of his troops which had opposed them; and Tecumseh, with his Indians, fled directly from the river, westwardly, into the wilderness, and were pursued by that part of the troops which had opposed them, overtaking them who were wounded, and otherwise unable to escape.

After the British had retreated about one mile, they came into an opening, of about half a mile in diameter; here they endeavoured to form again, but on the precipitate approach of the Americans, they again broke and fled into the woods down the river. They were pursued to the edge of these woods, when Colonel Miller received information from Major Van Horne, whom he had left in command of the right flank, that Tecumseh had retreated westwardly, that he successively took new positions with his Indians, that they were still fighting, and that it was still doubtful how the conflict would finally terminate in that quarter. On the receipt of this information, Colonel Miller ordered the troops under his immediate command, to halt, and form the line. He informed the officers, that it would not do to pursue the enemy any farther, until he had heard again from the right flank. That as Tecumseh had retreated in another direction, the army was now divided, and the two divisions, already out of hearing of each other's musquetry. That if Tecumseh was likely to overpower that division, he must send back a reinforcement to their relief, or the Indians would otherwise immediately advance upon the field of battle, and massacre the wounded, destroy the rear guard, and take the ammunition and stores; and finally fall upon his rear.

Information was at length brought that Tecumseh had

finally fled, and that the troops were returning to join that division as soon as possible.

Colonel Miller immediately ordered the troops to march in further pursuit of the British. They entered the woods, and the cavalry moved a-head at full speed. When they arrived through these woods, which was about half a mile, they came upon the beach of Lake Erie, and discovered the enemy all in boats, steering towards Malden, and out of reach of their shot. They had concealed their boats at this point, when they came over, for this purpose, if they should be defeated. This circumstance however could not have been known to Colonel Miller before. He now ordered the troops to return upon the field from whence they had last marched, which was done; and on their arrival, they were joined by the other division which had returned from the pursuit of Tecumseh and his Indians.

The cause is now shewn, which has not been generally understood heretofore, why the British were not all captured, when they had been so totally defeated.

The troops were then formed in line, fronting the field of battle; when Colonel Miller rode in front of the centre, and addressed them in the following words:

"My brave fellows! you have done well! every man has done his duty. I give you my hearty thanks for your conduct on this day; you have gained my highest esteem; you have gained fresh honor to yourselves, and to the American arms: your fellow soldiers in arms will love you, and your country will reward you. You will return to the field of battle to collect those who have gloriously fallen; your friendly attentions to your wounded companions is required." After which, detachments were sent out with waggons, to search the woods, and collect all the wounded and dead, and to bring them to the ground then occupied by the troops. After this was completed, all the Indian houses were prepared, amounting to 3 or 4, and the wounded moved into them, as it began to rain, and the surgeons were industriously employed with them, during the whole night. The troops then encamped in order of battle, about dusk, on the bank of the river, fronting

the woods, forming three sides of a parallelogram, the river forming the other side.

The time from the attack on the van guard, to the time of forming the line on the Indian fields, after the pursuit was finally ended, was two and a half hours. During this sharp conflict, the conduct of each individual, officer and soldier, was so uniformly and strictly military, that the commander was scarcely able to make distinctions in his brief and modest official report to General Hull. The physical powers of almost every man, were called to action, and severely tried. The names of some officers only, will be mentioned, whose conduct was, from concommitant circumstances, most deeply impressed on the mind of the writer. In doing this, however, he wishes to be distinctly understood, that the conduct of many others, was equally meritorious. As he writes entirely from recollection, the impossibility at this time, of giving the names, and much more, the actions of every individual, will readily be conceived. Major Van Horne, who had the mortification to be defeated on nearly the same ground, on the 5th, had sought and obtained a command under Colonel Miller. He behaved during the whole action, in a gallant and soldierly manner. Major Morrison, of the Ohio volunteers, also obtained a command in the detachment, of whose meritorious conduct, Colonel Miller always spoke with the greatest warmth of feeling; his horse was shot under him at nearly the same time Colonel Miller was dismounted, being at that moment near together. Lieutenant Johnson, of the Michigan dragoons, (a small number of which corps, formed a part of the cavalry,) behaved in a most gallant manner—he had his horse shot under him. At the moment the charge was ordered, being near Colonel Miller, he discovered one of his men shrink from the attack, at which he presented his pistol to his breast, and was on the point of blowing him through, when Colonel Miller desired him not to kill him, as he considered the battle was going in their favor. Captain De Cant, and his Ensign M'Comb, of the Michigan legion, behaved in a manner, which would have done honor to veterans, particularly, when charging the Indians in their works, on the river

flank; Captain De Cant was the first man, who jumped the breast work at that point, thereby encouraging his men to follow him. Captain Brown, of the Ohio volunteers, who was on the flank opposed to Tecumseh, with his company, fought hard and stubborn! his conduct was admired by Colonel Miller—as was the conduct of all the volunteers, both officers and men on that flank. Captain Daniel Baker, of the first regiment U. S. Infantry, had requested and obtained a command; he was on the flank opposed to the Indians under Tecumseh. His gallantry, and the effect of his experience, contributed greatly to the foiling of Tecumseh, in his manœuvreing to turn that flank of the American line. He was shot through the thigh, in the warmest part of the engagement, but did not quit his command, till the enemy finally fled, nor the ground until the wounded were all brought off. Lieutenant Eastman, with the six pounder, did good execution, and contributed greatly to the defeat of the British troops. The fourth regiment behaved generally in that chivalrous manner, which ought to render the individuals then composing it, the objects of their country's warmest affections and *unceasing patronage.*

These sentiments, it is believed, must be acknowledged by all those who are acquainted with their conduct, fatigues and hardships, during this, and the preceding campaign on the Wabash. They had been for eighteen months, almost continually traversing those wild regions of the north west, where perils and dangers awaited them through every succeeding day and night, where they were necessarily deprived of almost all the enjoyments and comforts of life, and during some portion of the time, of the necessary means of subsistence. They had marched during successive weeks, in mud and water, and during successive days, without having dried their feet. They had now fought during this time, two of the severest battles that had ever been fought under the government of the United States, larger numbers had been engaged, but an equal number had never fought more desperate. These battles were as much more perilous than usual, as the enemy were more terrible: capture was massacre, and defeat was annihilation.

The conduct of Colonel Miller, it is believed, will be correctly appreciated from the foregoing narrative of facts, by his countrymen. Encomium would be insipid. Captain Snelling, of the advance guard, behaved in that heroic manner that can never be excelled : of his command of forty men, more than twenty were killed and wounded. In the retreat of the enemy, he pursued on horseback (the remnant of his guard falling into the line,) bare-headed, having lost his hat in the engagement. It is believed it was shot away. Captains Fuller and Burton ; Lieutenants Peters, Hawkins, Way, Eastman, Ager, Peckham and Larabee, of the fourth, all conducted in the most gallant manner; as also did Captain Whistler, junior ; Lieutenant Stansbury, Ensigns Whistler, M'Cabe, Cibley and Phillips, of the first U. S. regiment of infantry, who served in the fourth on that tour.

Lieutenant Peters was wounded in the early part of the engagement, having been shot through the leg, the same, and a little below that, which had been shot through at the battle of Tippacanoe : Ensign Whistler was also wounded. Capt. Brenvort, aid to Col. Miller, behaved with that cool and daring intrepidity, which gained him the admiration of the army. Captain Hull was active, and very useful in carrying the orders of Colonel Miller. Lieutenant Charles Larabee of the fourth, was also wounded ; he was shot through the left arm, a little below the shoulder, the bone of which was broken and split, and which was amputated a few days afterwards. On his falling to the rear, which he was persuaded to do, he found the officer and squad with the howitzer in difficulty. The position of this piece on the march, being in rear of the six pounder, and its ammunition waggon, and considerably in the rear of the centre of the columns, when the attack was made in front, it had not ascended the rising ground on which the lines formed. The enemy not being seen from that position, and their situation, and the nature of the attack, being unknown ; the piece was unlimbered and prepared for action, and awaited the orders of the commander in chief, agreeably to his instructions. Orders soon came by an aid, Captain Hull, to advance the piece

to the front, in line with the infantry; in consequence of having to ascend the rising ground, the soil being soft, and the road somewhat obstructed by logs and roots, it was necessary again to limber the piece, in order to advance it to its intended position. At this moment, the horses being frightened by the firing, grew frantic and unmanageable, and in endeavouring to bring the limbers to the piece, they were run against a tree, and so twisted around it as to break them down. They were thrown aside, and an attempt made to advance the piece to the front by the men, with their drag ropes. In consequence of the obstructions before mentioned, the men with all their exertions, were able to advance it but slowly up the rising ground, with the officer at the drag ropes. In this situation, tugging up the hill, Lieutenant Larabee met them, when he saw their trouble, forgetting that he was hurt, he sprang to the piece, clinched the drag rope with his right hand, and with the greatest enthusiasm of feeling and language, he assisted in bringing the piece to the front, with his left arm swinging from its shattered point, when he again returned to the rear. This misfortune of the howitzer, deprived Colonel Miller of its use, during the time the British troops stood their ground. It could not be brought in front of the line so as to fire on the enemy, without injuring the Americans, till the moment the enemy's line broke as there was but ten men attached to it. That number being its complement in action only, could not advance it, under those circumstances, in time. The conduct of the officer commanding the piece, however, was applauded, and his misfortune solaced by Colonel Miller. In this action eighteen Americans were killed, and sixty three wounded, making in killed and wounded, eighty one ; about one man in seven who were engaged : not one man was captured. The loss of the enemy was ascertained to be, of Indians killed and wounded, one hundred and two, more than one half of that number were left dead on the field, and believed to be from the best information, of whites, fifty eight, total, one hundred and sixty : a few whites were taken prisoners. The British had brought over horses and sleds to carry off their kil-

led and wounded, and consequently they were mostly taken to Malden. The writer believes the above stated number of killed and wounded, of the white enemy, to be too small, as he saw in the hospitals at Malden, a few weeks afterwards, while a prisoner of war, and on his way to Quebec. a great number of convalescent men: many had died : among whom were one or two officers of the 41st. regiment. He also ascertained that Major Muer, Tecumseh, Blue Jacket, and other commanders, were wounded.

Some time in the evening of the ninth, Captain Maxwell returned with his spies, having been sent forward to the village of Brownstown, and reported, that the village was abandoned, and that no enemy could be discovered. Early next morning, August 10th, detachments were sent out by Colonel Miller, to scour the woods in search of one man who was ascertained to be still missing ; he was, however, found dead. While the men were ranging over the woods, one of them was shot dead. A smoke of a piece was discovered at a distance, rising from the ground, by the party—they approached the spot, and beheld an Indian lying on the ground wounded, and unable to stand—one arm and one leg were broken—he had lain there during the night, by his piece, which was loaded when he fell. The cool deliberation with which he died, proved the native fortitude of the savage to meet death when resistance is useless. Unwilling to endure his pains longer, and die by degrees, he determined to die by the hand of his enemies, and to sell his life to them, as dear as possible. He summoned together the little strength which remained, and so steadily levelled his rifle at the approaching American, as to put the ball through his heart.

A singular occurrence happened also, as to the death of an Indian, who was killed the day before during the battle, and near the close of it:--An officer of the fourth regiment had observed two or three balls strike close to him, and apparently from a quarter where no enemy could be discovered, he told one of his men to search for the Indian whom he supposed concealed, and on watching for the discharge, he discovered it to be overhead—he looked

into the top of a tree, and saw an Indian loading his rifle; he took a position to fire at the savage, who discovered it, and made ready to fire at the soldier, but the soldier being a little too quick for him, put a ball through him, and he came tumbling down from the tree like a bear.

The dead being all collected, on the tenth, about 10 o'clock A. M. were buried under an Indian house, in one grave, and the house burned down, to conceal from the savages the spot where they lay.

At sun rise the march was resumed, and at 12 o'clock on the 12th of August, the detachment re-entered the town of Detroit, covered with mud, from foot to head, their clothes not having been dried in two and a half days. The sun now cheered them with its influence, they marched through the street to the encampment, to the tune of the soldier's return, and closed with yankee doodle. They were met by their brother soldiers and citizens, with all that sympathy and heart felt joy, which constitutes the soldier's reward, for his hard earned victory.

SURRENDER OF HULL'S ARMY.

Head Quarters, Detroit August 16, 1812.

GENERAL ORDERS.

It is with pain and anxiety, that Brig. General Hull announces to the North West Army, that he has been compelled from a sense of duty, to agree to the following articles of Capitulation.

Camp at Detroit, Aug. 16, 1812.

Capitulation for the surrender of Fort Detroit, entered into between Major General Brock, commanding His Britannic Majesty's forces, on the one part, and Brig. Gen. Hull, commanding the N. Western Army of the United States, on the other part.

1*st.* Fort Detroit, with all the troops, regulars as well as militia, will be immediately surrendered to the British forces under the command of Major Gen-

eral Brock, and will be considered as prisoners of war, with the exception of such of the militia of Michigan Territory who have not joined the army.

2nd. All the public stores, arms, and all public documents, including every thing of a public nature, will be immediately given up.

3d. Private persons and property of every description, will be respected.

4th. His Excellency Brig. General Hull, having expressed a desire that a detachment from the state of Ohio, on its way to join his army, as well as one sent from Fort Detroit, under the command of Colonel M'Arthur, should be included in the above capitulation, it is accordingly agreed to; it is however to be understood, that such part of the Ohio Militia, as have not joined the army, will be permitted to return to their homes, on condition that they will not serve during the war; their arms, however, will be delivered up, if belonging to the public.

5th. The garrison will march out at the hour of 12 o'clock this day, and the British forces will take immediate possession of the fort.

J. M'DONEL, Lt. Col. Militia, P. A. D. C.
J. B. GLEGG, Major, A. D. D.
JAS. MILLER, Lt. Col. 5th U. S. Infantry.
E. BRUSH, Col. 1st. Regt. Michigan Militia.

Approved.

W. HULL, Brig. Gen. Comdg. U. S. Army.
ISAAC BROCK, Major General.

OFFICIAL.

From General Brock to Sir George Prevost—dated Detroit, 16 August, 1812.

Sir, I hasten to apprise your Excellency of the capture of this very important post; 2500 troops have this day surrendered prisoners of war, and about 25 pieces of ordnance have been taken without the sacrifice of a drop of British blood. I had not more than 700 troops including militia, and about 600 Indians, to

accomplish this service. *When I detail my good fortune, your Excellency will be astonished.*

ISAAC BROCK, Major General.

To His Ex. Lieut. Gen. Sir GEO. PREVOST.

CAPTURE OF THE SLOOP OF WAR ALERT.

Copy of a letter received at the Navy Department, from Captain Porter, of the United States Frigate Essex, of 32 Guns.

At Sea, August 17, 1812.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that upon the 13th, his B. M. sloop of war Alert, Captain T. L. P. Laugharne, ran down on our weather quarter, gave three cheers and commenced an action, (if so trifling a skirmish deserves the name,) and after eight minutes' firing, struck her colours with 7 feet water in her hold, much cut to pieces, and 3 men wounded.

I need not inform that the officers and crew of the Essex, behaved as I trust all Americans will in such cases, and it is only to be regretted that so much zeal and activity could not have been displayed on an occasion that would have done them more honor; the Essex has not received the slightest injury. The Alert was out for the purpose of taking the Hornet!

I have the honor, &c.

Hon. P. HAMILTON. D. PORTER.

CAPTURE OF THE GUERRIER.

United States Frigate Constitution.
off Boston Light, August 30th. 1812.

Sir, I have the honor to inform you, that on the 19th inst. at 2 P. M. being in lat. 41, 42, and long. 55, 48, with the Constitution under my command, a sail was discovered from the mast head, bearing E. by S. or S. S. E. but at such a distance we could not tell what she was; all sail was made in chase, and soon

found we come up with her; at 3, P. M. could plainly see that she was a ship, on the starboard tack, under easy sail, close on a wind; at half past 3, P. M. made her out to be a frigate; continued the chase until we were within about 3 miles, when I ordered the light sails taken in, the courses hauled up, and the ship cleared for action; at this time the chase had backed her main-top-sail waiting for us to come down. As soon as the Constitution was ready for action, I bore down with an intention to bring her to close action immediately; but on our coming within gun shot, she gave us a broadside and filled away, and wore, and giving us a broadside on the other tack, but without effect; her shot fell short. She continued wearing and manœuvring for about three quarters of an hour, to get a raking position, but finding she could not, she bore up and ran under her topsails and jib with the wind on the quarter. I immediately made sail to bring the ship up with her, and at 5 minutes before 6 P. M. being along side within half pistol shot, we commenced a heavy fire from all our guns, double shotted with round and grape, and so well directed were they, and so warmly kept up, that in 15 minutes her mizen mast went by the board, and her main yard in the slings, and the hull rigging and sails very much torn to pieces; the fire was kept up with equal warmth for 15 minutes longer, when her main mast went, taking with it every spar except the bowsprit; on seeing this we ceased firing, so that in *thirty minutes*, after we got fairly along side the enemy, she surrendered, and had not a spar standing, and her hull below and above water so shattered, that a few more broadsides must have carried her down

After informing you that so fine a ship as the Guerrier, commanded by an able and experienced officer, had been totally dismasted, and otherwise cut to pieces, so as to make her not worth towing into port, in the short space of *thirty minutes*, you can have no doubt of the gallantry and good conduct of the officers and ship's company, I have the honor to command; it only remains therefore for me to assure you that they all fought with great bravery; and it gives me great plea-

sure to say, that from the smallest boy in the ship, to the oldest seaman, not a look of fear was seen ; they all went into action giving three cheers, and requesting to be laid close along side the enemy. Enclosed I have the honor to send you a list of the killed and wounded on board the Constitution, and a report of the damages she has sustained, also a list of killed and wounded on board the enemy, with his quarter bill.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC HULL.

Return of killed and wounded on board the United States Frigate Constitution, Isaac Hull, Esq. Captain, in the action with his B. M. S. Guerrier, Jas. R. Dacres, Esq. Capt. on the 19th Aug, 1812.

Killed—Lieut. W. S. Brush, and 6 seamen,	7
Wounded—Lieut. Ch. Morris, and 6 seamen,	7
Total killed and wounded,	14

List of the killed and wounded on board the Guerrier.

Killed—Lieut. Ready and 38 others	39
Wounded—Capt. Dacres and 60 others	61
Total killed and wounded in the Guerrier.	100

I. HULL, Capt.
I. J. CHEW, Purser.

Note.—The following Challenge was written on the face of the John Adam's register, a few days previous to the above action ;—
"The Guerrier, 44 guns, 300 men, will be happy to see the President, Commodore Rodgers, outside the Hook, or any other large Frigate, to have a sociable *tete-a-tete.*"

ATTACK ON FORT HARRISON.

Letter from Z. Taylor, commanding Fort Harrison, (In. Territory,) to General Harrison.

Dated, Fort Harrison September 10th, 1812.

Sir, On Thursday evening, the 3d inst. after retreat beating, four guns were heard to fire in the direction where two young men (citizens who resided here,) were making hay, about 400 yards distant from the

fort; I was immediately impressed with an idea that they were killed by the Indians, as the Miamies or Waes had that day informed me, that the Prophet's party would soon be here, for the purpose of commencing hostilities; and that they had been directed to leave this place, which they were about to do. I did not think it prudent to send out at that late hour of the night to see what become of them; and their not coming in, convinced me that I was right in my conjecture; I waited until 8 o'clock next morning, when I sent out a corporal, with a small party, to find them, if it could be done without running too much risque of being drawn into an ambuscade; he soon sent back to inform me that he had found them both killed, and wished to know my further orders; I sent the cart and oxen, and had them brought in and buried; they had been each shot with two balls, scalped and cut in the most shocking manner. Late in the evening of the 4th inst. Joseph Lenar, and between 30 and 40 Indians, arrived from Prophet's town with a white flag, among whom were about 10 women, and the men were composed of chiefs of the different tribes that compose the Prophet's party.

A Shawone man, that spoke good English, informed me that old Lenar intended to speak to me next morning, and try to get something to eat; at retreat beating, I examined the men's arms, and found them all in good order, and completed their cartridges to 16 rounds per man—as I had not been able to mount a guard of more than 6 privates and two non-commissioned officers, for some time past, and sometimes part of them every other day, from the unhealthiness of the company, I had not conceived my force adequate to the defence of this post, should it be vigourously attacked, for some time past; as I had just recovered from a very severe attack of the fever, I was not able to be up much through the night—after taptoo, I cautioned the guards to be vigilant, and ordered one of the non-commissioned officers, (as the centinels could not see every part of the garrison,) to walk around the inside, during the whole night, to prevent the Indians taking

any advantage of us, provided they had any intention of attacking us. About eleven o'clock I was awakened by the firing of the centinels ; I sprang up, ran out and ordered the men to their posts, when my orderly serjeant, who had charge of the block-house, called out that the Indians had fired the lower block-house, which contained the property of the contractor, which was deposited in the lower part, the upper having been assigned to a corporal and 10 privates, as an alarm post ; the guns had began to fire pretty smartly from both sides—I directed the buckets to be got ready, and water brought from the well, and the fire extinguished immediately, as it was hardly perceivable at that time ; but from debility, or some other cause, the men were very slow in executing my orders, the word appeared to throw them all into confusion ; and by the time they had got the water, and broke open the door, the fire had communicated to a quantity of whiskey ; and in spite of every exertion we could make use of, in less than a moment, it ascended to the roof, and baffled every effort we could make to extinguish it. As that block-house adjoined the barracks that make part of the fortifications, most of the men immediately gave themselves up for lost, and I had the greatest difficulty in getting any of my orders executed, and sir, from the raging of the fire, the yelling and howling of several hundred Indians, the cries of 9 women and children who had taken shelter in the fort, and the desponding of so many of the men, (which was worse than all,) I can assure you, that my feelings were unpleasant, indeed there were not more than 10 or 15 men able to do a great deal, the others being either sick or convalescent, and to add to our misfortunes, two of the stoutest men of the fort, and that I had every confidence in, jumped the picket and left us. But my presence of mind did not for a moment forsake me ; I saw by throwing off part of the roof that joined the block-house that was on fire, and keeping the end perfectly wet, the whole row of buildings might be saved, and leave only an entrance of 18 or 20 feet for the Indians to enter after the house was consumed ; and that

a temporary breast-work might be erected, to prevent even their entering there. I convinced the men that this could be accomplished, and it appeared to inspire them with new life, and never did men act with more firmness or desperation ; those that were able, (while the others kept up a fire from the other block-house and the two bastions,) mounted the roofs of the houses, with Doctor Clarke, at their head (who acted with the greatest firmness and presence of mind, the whole time the attack lasted, which was eight hours under a shower of bullets,) and in a moment threw off as much of the roof as was necessary, this was done with the loss of one man only, and two wounded, neither of them dangerously, the man that was killed was a little deranged, and did not get off the house as soon as directed, or he would not have been hurt ; and altho' the barracks were several times in a blaze, the men used such exertions, that they kept it under; and before day light, raised a temporary breastwork as high as a man's head, altho' the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball, and an innumerable quantity of arrows, during the whole time the attack lasted, in every part of the parade.

I had but one other man killed, nor any other wounded inside the fort, and he lost his life by being too anxious ; he got into one of the gallies in the bastions and fired over the pickets, and called to his comrades that he had killed an Indian, and neglecting to stoop down, in an instant he was shot dead ; one of the men that jumped the picket, returned an hour before day, and running towards the gate, begged for God's sake it might be opened ; I suspected it to be a stratagem of the Indians to get in ; as I did not recollect the voice, I directed the men in the bastion where I happened to be, to shoot him, let him be who he would, and one of them fired at him, but fortunately he ran up to the other bastion, where they knew his voice, and Doctor Clarke directed him to lie down close to the pickets behind an empty barrel that happened to be there, and at daylight I had him let in ; his arm was broke in a most shocking manner, which he says was done by the In-

dians, and which I suppose was the cause of his returning. The other man, they caught about 120 yards from the garrison, and cut him all to pieces. After keeping up a constant fire, until about six o'clock the next morning, which we began to return with some effect, after day, light, they removed out of the reach of our guns ; a party of them drove up the horses that belonged to the citizens here, and as they could not catch them very readily, shot the whole of them, in our sight, as well as a number of their hogs ; they drove off the whole of the cattle, which amounted to 65 head, with the public oxen. I had the vacancy filled up before night, (which was occasioned by the burning the block-house,) with a strong row of pickets, which I got by pulling down the guard house. We lost the whole of our provisions, but must make out to live upon green corn until we can get a supply, which I hope will not be long. I believe the whole of the Miamies or Waes, were with the prophet's party, as one chief gave his orders in that language, which resembled Stone-eater's voice, and I believe Negro-legs, was there likewise ; a Frenchman here understands their different languages, and several of the Waes that have been frequently here, were recognized by the soldiers next morning ; the Indians suffered smartly, but were so numerous as to take off all that were shot ; they continued with us until the next morning, but made no further attempt on the fort, nor have we seen any thing more of them since.

His Ex. Gov. Harrison. Z. TAYLOR.

(Captain Taylor received a Majority for his bravery in the above affair.)

BATTLE OF QUEENSTOWN.

Copy of a letter from Major General Van Ransellaer, of the New-York militia, to Major General Henry Dearborn, transmitted by the latter, to the Department of War.

Head Quarters, Lewistown, October 14, 1812.

Sir,—As the movements of the army under my command, since I had last the honor to address you, on the

8th inst. have been of a very important character, producing consequences serious to many individuals; establishing facts actually connected with the interest of the service, and the safety of the army; and as I stand prominently responsible for some of these consequences, I beg leave to explain to you sir, and through you, to my country, the situation and circumstances, and the reasons and motives which governed me; and if the result is not all that might have been wished, it is such, that when the whole ground shall be reviewed, I shall cheerfully submit myself to the judgment of my country.

In my letter of the 8th inst. I apprized you, that a crisis in this campaign was rapidly advancing, and that (to repeat the same words,) "the blow must be soon struck, or all the toil and expence of the campaign go for nothing; and worse than nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonor."

Under such impressions I had, on the 5th inst. written to Brig. Gen. Smyth, of the U. States forces, requesting an interview with him, Major Gen. Hall, and the commandants of the U. States regiments, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of future operations.

I wrote Major Gen. Hall, to the same purport; on the 11th. I had received no answer from Gen. Smyth; but in a note to me of the 10th. Gen. Hall mentioned that Gen. Smyth had not then agreed upon any day for the consultation.

In the mean time, the partial success of Lieut. Elliott, at Black Rock, (of which, however, I have received no official information) began to excite a strong disposition in the troops to act; this was expressed to me through various channels in the shape of an *alternative;* that they must have *orders to act;* or at all hazards they would *go home.* I forbear commenting here upon the obvious consequences to me, personally, of longer withholding my orders under such circumstances.

I had a conference with ———, as to the possibility of getting some person to pass over to Canada, and obtain correct information. On the morning of the

4th. he wrote to me that he had procured the man who bore his letter to go over ; instructions were given him, he passed over, obtained such information as warranted an immediate attack. This was confidentially communicated to several of my first officers, and produced great zeal to act ; more especially, as it might have a controlling effect upon the movements at Detroit, where it was supposed General Brock was gone, with all the force he dared spare from the Niagara frontier ; the best preparations in my power were therefore made, to dislodge the enemy, from the heights of Queenstown, and possess ourselves of the village, where the troops might be sheltered from the distressing inclemency of the weather.—Lieut. Col. Fenwick's flying artillery, and a detachment of regular troops under his command, were ordered to be up in season from fort Niagara ; orders were also sent to Gen. Smyth, to send down from Buffaloe, such a detachment of his brigade, as existing circumstances in that vicinity might warrant ; the attack was to have been made at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 11th. by crossing over in boats, from the old ferry, opposite the heights ; to avoid any embarrassment in crossing the river, (which is here a sheet of violent eddies,) experienced boatmen were procured, to take the boats from the landing below, to the place of embarkation ; Lieut. Sim, was considered the man of greatest skill for this service ; he went ahead, and, in the extreme darkness, passed the intended place far up the river, and there, in a most extraordinary manner, fastened his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this *front boat*, he had carried nearly every *oar*, which was prepared for *all* the boats: in this agonizing dilemma stood officers and men, whose ardour had not been cooled by exposure, through the night, to one of the most tremendous N. East storms, which continued unabated for twenty-eight hours, and deluged the whole camp: the approach of day light extinguished every prospect of success, and the detachment returned to camp. Col. Van Ransellaer was to have commanded the detachment.

After this result, I had hoped the patience of the troops would have continued until I could submit the plan, suggested in my letter of the 8th, that I might act under, and in conformity to the opinion which might be then expressed; but my hope was idle:—the previously excited ardour seemed to have gained new heat from the late miscarriage—the brave were mortified to stop short of their object, and the timid thought laurels half won by the attempt.

Viewing the affairs at Buffaloe as yet unsettled, I had immediately countermanded the march of Gen. Smyth's brigade, upon the failure of the first expedition; but having now determined to attack Queenstown, I sent new orders to Gen. Smyth, to march; not with a view of his aid in the attack, (for I considered the force detached sufficient) but to support the detachment, should the conflict be obstinate and long continued.

Lieut. Col. Christie, who had arrived at 4 mile creek, had, late in the night of the first contemplated attack, gallantly offered me his own and his men's service, but he got my permission too late:—he now again came forward, had a conference with Col. Van Ransellaer, and begged that he might have the honor of a command in the expedition: the arrangement was made; Col. Van Ransellaer was to command one column of 300 militia, and Lieut. Col. Christie a column of the same number of regular troops.

Every precaution was now adopted, as to boats; and the most confidential and experienced men to manage them. At an early hour in the night, Lieut. Col. Christie marched his detachment, by the rear road, from Niagara to camp: at 7 in the evening, Lieut. Col. Stranahan's regiment moved from Niagara falls; at 8 o'clock, Mead's; at 9, Lieut. Col. Blan's regiment marched from the same place—all were in camp in good season. Agreeably to my orders, issued on this occasion, the two columns were to pass over together; and, as soon as the heights should be carried, Lieut. Col. Fenwick's flying artillery was to pass over; then Major Mullany's detachment of regulars, and the other troops, to follow in order.

At dawn of day the boats were in readiness, and the troops commenced embarking under the cover of a commanding battery, mounting 2 eighteen pounders, and 2 sixes. The movement was soon discovered, and a brisk fire of musquetry was poured from the whole line of the Canada shore. Our battery then opened to sweep the shore; but it was, for some minutes, too dark to direct much fire with safety. A brisk cannonade was now opened upon the boats, from three different batteries; our battery returned their fire, and occasionally threw grape upon the shore, and was itself served with shells from a small mortar of the enemys. Col. Scott, of the artillery, by hastening his march from Niagara falls, in the night, arrived in season to return the enemy's fire with 2 six pounders.

The boats were somewhat embarrassed by the eddies, as well as with a shower of shot; but Col. Van Ransellaer, with about one hundred men, soon effected his landing amidst a tremendous fire, directed upon him from every point; but to the astonishment of all who witnessed the scene, this van of the column advanced slowly against the fire. It was a serious misfortune to the van, and indeed to the whole expedition, that in a few minutes after landing, Col. Van Ransellaer received four wounds; a ball passed through his right thigh, entering just below the hip bone—another shot passed through the same thigh, a little below; the third through the calf of his left leg, and a fourth contused his heel. This was quite a crisis in the expedition; under so severe a fire, it was difficult to form raw troops. By some mismanagement of the boatmen, Lieut. Col. Christie did not arrive until sometime after this, and was wounded in the hand in passing the river. Col. Van Ransellaer was still able to stand; and. with great presence of mind, ordered his officers to proceed, and storm the fort: this service was gallantly performed, and the enemy driven down the hill in every direction. Soon after this, both parties were considerably reinforced, and the conflict was renewed in various places; many of the enemy took shelter behind a stone guardhouse, where a piece of ordnance was now briskly served.

I ordered the fire of our battery directed upon the guard-house; and, it was so effectually done, that, with eight or ten shot, the fire was silenced. The enemy then retreated behind a large store-house; but, in a short time, the rout became general, and the enemy's fire was silenced, except from a one gun battery, so far down the river as to be out of the reach of our heavy ordnance, and our light pieces could not silence it. A number of boats now passed over unanoyed, except from the one unsilenced gun. For some time after I had passed over, the victory appeared complete; but, in the expectation of further attacks, I was taking measures for fortifying my camp immediately: the direction of this service I committed to Lieut. Totten, of the engineers; but very soon the enemy were reinforced by a detachment of several hundred Indians, from Chippewa—they commenced a furious attack, but were promptly met, and routed by the rifle and bayonet. By this time I perceived my troops were embarking very slowly; I passed immediately over, to accelerate their movements; but to my utter astonishment, I found that, at the very moment when complete victory was in our hands, the ardor of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. I rode in all directions—urged men, by every consideration, to pass over; but in vain. Lieut. Col. Bloom, who had been wounded in action, returned, mounted his horse, and rode through the camp; as did also Judge Peck, who happened to be here, exhorting the companies to proceed; but all in vain. At this time a large reinforcement from Fort George were discovered coming up the river. As the battery on the hill was considered an important check against their ascending the heights, measures were immediately taken to send them a fresh supply of ammunition, as I had learnt there were only left twenty shot, for 18 pounders. The reinforcements, however, obliqued to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians, in the rear of the heights. Finding, to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcement would pass over—seeing that another severe conflict would soon commence; and knowing that the brave men on the heights were quite exhausted, and near-

ly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send them a fresh supply of cartridges.

At this critical moment, I dispatched a note to Gen. Wadsworth, acquainting him with our situation—leaving the course to be pursued much to his own judgment, with assurance that, if he thought best to retreat, I would send as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could safely make:—but the boats were dispersed; many of the boatmen had fled, panic struck, and but few got off. But my note could but have little more than reached Gen. Wadsworth, about 4 o'clock, when a severe and obstinate conflict commenced, and continued about half an hour, with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery, and musquetry. The enemy succeeded in repossessing their battery, and gaining advantage on every side; the brave men who had gained the victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their soldiers, gave up the conflict.

I can only add, that the victory was really won—but lost for the want of a small reinforcement; *one third part of the idle men might have saved all!*

I cannot, in justice, close this, without expressing the very great obligation I am under to Brig. Gen. Wadsworth, Col. Van Ransellaer, Lieut. Colonels Christie and Fenwick, and Capt Gibson. Many others have also behaved most gallantly. As I have reason to believe that many of our troops fled to the woods, with the hope of crossing the river, I have not been able to learn the probable number of killed, wounded, and prisoners: the slaughter of our troops must have been very considerable, and the enemy have suffered severely; Gen. Brock is among their slain, and his aid-de-camp mortally wounded.

I have the honor to be, &c.

STEPHEN VAN RANSELLAER,
Major Gen.

Major General DEARBORN.

RUPTURE WITH ALGIERS.

On board the ship Allegany,
At sea, July 25, 1812.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that, on the 17th of this month, the ship Allegany, Ebenezer Eveleth, master, arrived at Algiers, from the U. States, with a cargo of naval and military stores, for the regency, in fulfilment of treaty stipulations; and that, on the 20th inst. when they had began to discharge their cargo, I received a message from the Dey, informing me that he would not receive the same; saying, that the articles were not such, in quantity or quality, as he expected; and that the ship should leave the regency immediately, with myself, and all other American citizens in Algiers.—Every proper measure was taken to prevent the execution of this order, and to restore the former good understanding, but without effect; and I left Algiers this morning, in the ship Allegany, with my family, and all other citizens of the United States, then in Algiers.

On the 13th inst. a squadron of cruisers sailed from Algiers to the eastward, consisting of 5 frigates, 3 corvettes, 2 brigs, 1 Xebec, 1 schooner, 1 row galley, and 5 gunboats; and there is reason to apprehend that they had orders to capture American vessels.

I have the honor, &c.

TOBIAS LEAR.

To the Consuls, &c.

AFFAIR AT ST. REGIS.

Head Quarters, Camp French Mills,
24th October, 1812.

On the 22d I dispatched several confidential friends, to reconnoitre about the village of St. Regis; they returned with the information, that the enemy had landed in the village, and that we might expect a visit from them immediately. Their number was stated by no one at less than

110, and from that to 300; the most certain information fixed on the former number.

It was also believed that the enemy determined to make a stand at that place, and would speedily increase their number: this determined me to make an attempt to take out those already landed, before any reinforcement could arrive. I ordered the men to be furnished with two days rations of provisions, with double rations of whiskey; and at 11, at night, we marched out with the utmost silence, that we might give as little alarm as possible. We took a circuitous route, through the woods, and arrived at Gray's Mills, at half past 3, A. M. We found here, a boat, canoe, and two cribs of boards; Capt. Lyon's company crossed in the boats; Capt. M'Neil's, in the canoe, and the remainder, with our horses, crossed on the cribs. We arrived, within half a mile of the village, at 5 o'clock; where, being concealed from the enemy by a little rise of ground, we halted to reconnoitre, refresh the men, and make our disposition for the attack, which was arranged in the following order:—Capt. Lyon was detached from the right, with orders to take the road, running along the bank of the St. Regis river, with directions to gain the rear of Capt. Montaigny's house, in which, and Donally's, the enemy were said to be quartered. Capt. Tilden was detached to the St. Lawrence, with a view of gaining the route of Donally's house, and also securing the enemy's boats, to prevent their retreat. With the remainder of the force, I moved on in front, and arrived within a hundred and fifty yards of Montaigny's house, when I found, by the firing, that Capt. Lyon was engaged. At the same instant, I discovered a person passing in the front, and ordered him to stand; but not being obeyed, ordered Capt. Higbie's first platoon to fire, and the poor fellow soon fell; he proved to be the Ensign, named in the list of killed. The firing was at an end in an instant, and we soon found in our possession 40 prisoners, with their arms, &c.—4 killed—1 wounded mortally; took 1 stand of colours, 2 batteaux, 28 guns—40 men.

After searching in vain for further military stores, we crossed the river at the village, and returned to camp by

the nearest route, where we arrived at 11, A. M.—the batteaux, with baggage, &c. arrived a few minutes before us. We had not a man hurt.—I cannot close this letter, without stating to your excellency, that the officers and soldiers, for their conduct on this occasion, deserve the highest encomiums; for, so strict was their attention to duty and orders, that we entered the place without even being heard by the Indians' dogs. The prisoners I have just sent off to Plattsburgh, to await the disposition of your excellency.

I am, &c.

G. D. YOUNG, *Major,*

Commanding troops at French Mills.

Brig. Gen. Bloomfield.

AFFAIR ON LAKE ONTARIO.

Sacket's Harbor, 13*th Nov.* 1812.

SIR—I arrived here last evening in a gale of wind, the pilots having refused to keep the Lakes. On the 8th, I fell in with the Royal George, and chased her into the Bay of Quanti, where I lost sight of her, in the night. In the morning of the 9th, we again got sight of her, lying in Kingston channel. We gave chase, and followed her in the harbor of Kingston, where we engaged her and the batteries, for one hour and forty-five minutes. I had made up my mind to board her; but she was so well protected by the batteries, and the wind blowing directly in, it was deemed imprudent to make the attempt at that time; the pilots also refused to take charge of the vessels. Under these circumstances, and it being after sun-down, I determined to haul off, and renew the action the next morning. We beat up, in good order, under a heavy fire from the Royal George and batteries, to 4 mile point, where we anchored; it blew heavy, in squalls, from the westward, during the night, and there was every appearance of a gale of wind: the pilots became alarmed, and I thought it most prudent to get into a place of more safety—I therefore deferred renewing the attack, upon the ships and

forts, until a more favourable opportunity.—At 7, A. M. on the 10th, I made the signal to weigh, and we beat out of a very narrow channel, under a very heavy press of sail, to the open Lake. At 10, we fell in with the Gov. Simcoe, running for Kingston, and chased her into the harbor; she escaped by running over a reef of rocks, under a heavy fire from the Gov. Tompkins, the Hamilton, and the Julia, which cut her very much: all her people ran below, while under the fire of these vessels; the Hamilton chased her into 9 feet water, before she hauled off. In our passage through the bay of Quanti, I discovered a schooner at the village of Armingston, which we took possession of; but finding she would detain us, (being then in chase of the Royal George) I ordered Lieut. M'Pherson to take out her sails and rigging, and burn her, which he did. We also took the schooner Mary Hall, from Niagara, at the mouth of Kingston Harbor, and took her with us, to our anchorage. The next morning, finding she could not beat through the channel with us, I ordered the sailing master, in the Growler, to take her under convoy, and run down past Kingston, anchor on the east end of Long-Island, and wait for a wind, to come up on the east side; I was also in hopes, that the Royal George might be induced to follow, for the purpose of retaking our prize; but her commander was too well aware of the consequences, to leave his moorings. We lost, in this affair, one man killed, and three slightly wounded, with a few shot through our sails. The other vessels lost no men, and received but little injury in their hull and sails, with the exception of the Pert, whose gun bursted in the early part of the action, and wounded her commander badly, and a midshipman, and three men, slightly. Mr. Arundel, who refused to quit the deck, although wounded, was knocked overboard, and drowned, in beating up to our anchorage. The Royal George must have received very considerable injury, in her hull, and in men, as the gun vessels, with a long 32 pounder, were seen to strike her, almost every shot; and, it was observed, that she was reinforced with troops, four different times, during the action. I have great pleasure in saying, that the

officers and men, on board of every vessel, behaved with the utmost coolness, and are extremely anxious to meet the enemy on the open Lake; and, as long as I have the honor to command such officers and men, I can have no doubt of the result.—I think I can say, with great propriety, that we have now the command of the Lake; and that we can transport troops and stores, to any part of it, without any risk of an attack from the enemy. Although the whole of his naval force was not collected at Kingston, yet, the force, at the different batteries, would more than counterbalance the vessels that were absent; it was thought, by all the officers in the squadron, that the enemy had more than 30 guns, mounted at Kingston, and from 1000 to 1500 men.

The Royal George, protected by this force, was driven into the inner harbor, under the protection of the musquetry, by the Oneida, and 4 small schooners, fitted out as gun-boats.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The Hon. P. Hamilton.

THE WASP AND FROLIC.

Copy of a letter from Captain Jones, late of the U. States' sloop of war Wasp, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

New-York, 24th Nov. 1812.

SIR—I here avail myself of the first opportunity, of informing you of the occurrences of our cruise, which terminated in the capture of the Wasp, on the 18th of Oct. by the Poictiers, 74 guns, while a wreck, from damages received in an engagement with the British sloop of war Frolic, of 22 guns; sixteen of them 32lb, carronades, and four 12 pounders, on the main deck, and two 12 pounders, carronades, on the top-gallant forecastle, making her superior in force to us, by four 12 pounders. The Frolic had struck to us, and was taken possession of, about two hours before our surrendering to the Poictiers.

We had left the Delaware, on the 13th—the 16th, had a heavy gale, in which we lost our jib-boom, and two men. Half past eleven, on the night of the 17th, in the lat. of 37° north, lon. 65° west, we saw several sail, two of them appearing very large; we stood from them, for some time; then shortened sail and steered, the remainder of the night, the course we had perceived them on. At day day-light, on Sunday the 18th, we saw them ahead—gave chase, and soon discovered them to be a convoy, of six sail, under the protection of a sloop of war; four of their large ships mounting from 16 to 18 guns. At 32 minutes past 11, A. M. we engaged the sloop of war, having first received her fire, at the distance of 50 or 60 yards, which space we gradually lessened, until we laid her on board, after a well supported fire of forty-three minutes; and, although so near, while loading the last broadside, that our rammers were shoved against the side of the enemy, our men exhibited the same alacrity, which they had done during the whole of the action. They immediately surrendered, upon our gaining their forecastle, so that no loss was sustained, on either side, after boarding.

Our main top-mast was shot away, between 4 and 5 minutes after the commencement of the firing, and falling, together with the main topsail yard, across the larboard fore and fore topsail braces, rendered our head yards unmanageable the remainder of the action; at 8 minutes, the gaft and mizen top-gallant mast came down; and, at twenty minutes from the beginning of the action, every brace, and most of the rigging, was shot away. A few minutes after separating from the Frolic, both her masts fell upon deck; the main mast going close by the deck, and the fore mast twelve or fifteen feet above it. The courage and exertions of the officers and crew, fully answered my expectations and wishes: Lieut. Biddle's active conduct, contributed much to our success, by the exact attention paid to every department, during the engagement—and the animating example he afforded the crew, by his intrepidity. Lieutenants Rodgers, Booth, and Mr. Rapp, shewed, by the incessant fire from their divisions, that they were not to be surpassed in resolution

or skill. Mr. Knight, and every other officer, acted with a courage and promptitude, highly honorable; and, I trust, have given assurance, that they may be relied on, whenever their services may be required. I could not ascertain the exact loss of the enemy, as many of the dead lay buried under the masts and spars, that had fallen upon deck, which two hours exertion had not sufficiently removed. Mr. Biddle, who had charge of the Frolic, states, that, from what he saw, and from information from the officers, the number killed must have been about thirty, and that of the wounded, about forty or fifty. Of the killed, is her first Lieutenant, and sailing master; of the wounded, Captain Whinyates, and the second Lieutenant.

We had five killed, and five wounded, as per list; the wounded are recovering. Lieut. Claxton, who was confined by sickness, left his bed a little previous to the engagement; and, though too weak to be at his division, remained upon deck, and showed, by his composed manner of noting its incidents, that we had lost, by his illness, the services of a brave officer.

I am, &c.

JAMES JONES.

The Hon. P. HAMILTON, *Sec. Navy.*

EXPEDITION AGAINST THE INDIANS.

Detailed Account of Col. NEWMAN'S EXPEDITION AGAINST THE FLORIDA INDIANS.

New-Hope, St. John's, 19*th Oct.* 1812.

DEAR SIR—I have now the honor of transmitting to your excellency, an account of the several engagements which have taken place, between the Lotchaway and Alligator Indians, and the detachment of Georgia volunteers, under my command. As the object of this expedition, and the views of the persons engaged in it, have been

misconstrued, and mis-statements, relative to its protraction, circulated, I ask the indulgence of your excellency, to detail every transaction, from its commencement to its termination.—I arrived upon St. John's, in obedience to your orders, about the 15th of August, with the whole of my detachment, consisting of about 250, (with officers) and with few on the sick report. I immediately waited on Col. Smith, before Augustine, and received orders, dated the 21st of August, to proceed immediately against the hostile Indians, within the province of E. Florida, and destroy their towns, provisions, and settlements. I then returned to the detachment, upon the St. John's, and made every preparation to comply with my orders, by dispatching parties to procure horses, from the few inhabitants that had not fled from the province, in preparing packs and provisions, and taking every step, which I deemed necessary, to ensure success to the enterprize. In consequence of the sickness of myself, and nearly one half the detachment, the period of our marching was delayed, until the 24th September; and, when just upon the eve of departing, an express arrived from Col. Smith, informing me, that his provision waggons and escort were attacked by a body of negroes and Indians, and ordering me to join him immediately, with 90 men, and bring all the horses and carriages I could command, for the removal of his baggage, field pieces, and sick; he having only 70 men fit for duty. I marched to the relief of the Colonel, with 130 men and 25 horses, and assisted him in removing to the block-house, upon Davis's creek. This service delayed, for a few days, our expedition to the nation; and when the detachment assembled again upon the St. John's, and were about to commence their march, the men had but six or seven days to serve. About this time, I received a letter from Col. Smith, advising me to propose to the detachment, an extension of their service for 15 or 20 days longer, as the time for which they were engaged was deemed insufficient to effect the object of the expedition. I accordingly assembled the detachment, and, after stating the necessity of a tender of further service, proposed that the men should volunteer for three weeks longer—when

84 men, including officers, stepped out, and were enrolled, which, with the addition of 23 volunteer militia, sent to my aid, by Col. Smith, and 9 patriots, under the command of Capt. Cone, made my whole force amount to 117. With this small body, provided with 4 days provisions, and 12 horses, I was determined to proceed to the nation, and give those merciless savages, at least, one battle; and I was emboldened in this determination, by the strong expectation of being succored by a body of cavalry, from St. Mary's; and which, it has since appeared, did assemble at Colerain, but proceeded no further. On the evening of the 24th September, we left the St. John's, marching in Indian file; Capt. Humphrey's company of riflemen in front, Lieut. Fanuir's company in the centre, and Captain Coleman's company, with Cone's detachment, under the command of Lieut. Broadnax, in the rear; a small party marched in the front of the main body, and another in the rear. Our encampments, at night, (there being three companies) was in the form of a triangle, with the baggage in the centre; the men, with their clothes on, lying with their feet pointing outwards, and their firelocks in their arms. In case of an attack, the officers were instructed to bring up their companies, upon the right and left of the company fronting the enemy, and attend to the Indian mode of fighting, until ordered to charge. In case of meeting the enemy upon our march, Humphreys' company was instructed to file off to the right; Fort's company, to advance, and form to the front, in single rank, and Coleman's company to file off to the left—the whole, then, to advance, in form of a crescent, and endeavor to encircle the enemy. On the morning, of the 4th day of our march, when we were within 6 or 7 miles of the Lotchaway towns, our advanced party discovered a body of Indians, marching along the path, meeting us, and, at the same moment, they appeared to have discovered us. As soon as I was informed of it, I lost no time in giving the necessary directions for the companies to advance, and obey the instructions which had been previously given to them. As soon as Fort's company (at the head of which I had placed myself) had advanced to its proper

ground, I discovered the Indians falling back, and making every preparation for battle, by unslinging their packs, priming their rifles, and each man taking his tree. We continued to advance, taking advantage of the trees in our progress, until we were within 130 yards of the Indians, when many of them fired, and I instantly ordered the charge, which drove them from behind the trees, and caused them to retire, with the greatest precipitation. Our men, all the while, firing at them, slew several; and, by repeated charges, drove them half a mile, when they took shelter in a swamp. The action, including the skirmishing upon the flanks, lasted two hours and a half—the Indians frequently attempting to outflank us, and get in our rear, but were repulsed by the companies on our right and left. We had 1 man killed, and 9 wounded; 2 of which have since died of their wounds. The loss of the enemy must have been considerable; I saw seven fall to the ground, among whom was their king, Payne. The rifle company on the right, and Broadnax's on the left, speak of killing several, near the swamp, who were borne off by their comrades; it being a principle among the savages, to carry off their dead at the risk of their lives. We remained on the battle ground, watching the movements of the Indians, who were near the swamp, painting themselves, and appeared to be in consultation; all which indicated a renewal of the combat. Accordingly, half an hour before sun set, having obtained a considerable reinforcement of negroes and Indians, from their towns, they commenced the most horrid yells imaginable, imitating the cries and noise of almost every animal of the forest; their chiefs advancing, in front, in a stooping, serpentine manner, and making the most wild and frantic gestures, until they approached within 200 yards of us, when they halted, and commenced firing. Our men were not to be alarmed by their noise and yells; but, as instructed, remained perfectly still and steady, behind logs and trees, until the enemy, by this forbearance, had approached somewhat nearer, when a brisk and well directed fire,

from our line, soon drove them back to their original ground. I would now have ordered the charge; but, being under the necessity, from the extension of the enemy's line, of detaching nearly one half of my force to protect our camp and wounded, (the assailing of which, is a great object with Indians,) I was left to contend with a force three times as numerous as my own. The action lasted until 8 o'clock, when the enemy were completely repulsed, in every attempt. We had two men killed, and one wounded; the enemy carried off several of their men before it was dark; after which, all firing, (of course at random) was at the spot from whence the flash arose. After fighting, and fasting, the whole day, we had to work through the night; and, at day-light, had a tolerable breast-work, of logs and earth, with port holes, on the ground on which the battle was fought: we were reduced to this necessity; for, in dispatching Capt. Whitaker, about dark, to St. John's, for a reinforcement, six more men took the liberty to accompany him, taking with them our best horses; our pilot and surgeon, (who was sick,) was among the number. The two days succeeding the battle, we neither saw nor heard any thing of the enemy; but, on the evening of the third day, they commenced firing on our work, at a long distance, and renewed it every day, for 5 or 6 days, but without killing or wounding any of our men. After killing two or three of them, through our port holes, they seldom came within gunshot. Seven or eight days had now elapsed, since our express had left us; hunger was staring us in the face, and we were reduced to the necessity of eating one of our horses; we had no surgeon, to dress the wounded, and apprehensions were entertained, that the enemy would receive reinforcements from Augustine, or the Makasukie Indians. Expecting relief every hour, I was unwilling to leave our breast-work, while we had a horse left to eat; but I understood, from some of my officers, that a certain Captain was determined to leave us, with his company; and, that many of the men, giving up all hopes of relief, talked of deserting in the

night, rather than perish, or fall a sacrifice to the merciless negroes and Indians, whom they were taught to believe would surround us in great numbers, in a few days. In this trying situation, when our few remaining horses were shot down by them, and the number of our sick daily increasing, I reluctantly assented to leave our works that night, and directed the litters to be prepared, to carry the wounded. About 9 o'clock we commenced our distressing march, carrying 5 wounded men in litters, and supporting two or three more. We had not proceeded more than eight miles, when the men became perfectly exhausted, from hunger and fatigue, and were unable to carry the wounded any farther. About 2 hours after we left our breast-works, 25 horsemen, with provisions, arrived to our relief, on a different road from the one we had taken; but, from motives best known to themselves, instead of following us, returned to St. John's, and we were left to encounter new difficulties. We again constructed a plan of defence, and I dispatched sergeant-major Reese, with one private, to Picolata, to learn what had occasioned the delay of our expected supplies; and told him, I should remain where I was, until I could hear from him, and endeavored to procure cattle, as I discovered signs of their being near us. The evil genius of Capt. ———, again prevailed; and I have since learned, from Capt. Cone, that this person instigated not only him, but many of the privates, to urge a departure from our works, even in the day-time, when I was convinced that the Indians, knowing our weak situation, would endeavor to ambuscade. This gentleman, if *innocent*, will have an opportunity of proving himself so, before a court martial.

With a burning fever on me, and scarcely able to walk, the march was ordered, about 3 o'clock, P. M. I had directed the Adjutant, Captain Harden, to march in front, to avoid all places where there could be an ambuscade, and the litters should be distributed among the different companies. Being extremely weak, I marched in the rear, with Captain ———, (who carried

my firelock,) Lieut. Fannin, and 15 or 20 privates. We had scarcely marched 5 miles, before the front of the detachment discovered the heads of several Indians, on both sides of the path, from among several pine trees; the same instant, the enemy fired upon our advanced party, and shot down 4 of them; one, a Spaniard, died on the spot, and 2 survived a few days; my negro boy was one of them. The moment I heard the firing, I ordered the detachment to charge, and the Indians were completely defeated, in 15 minutes; many of them dropping their guns, and the whole running off, without attempting to rally; four were left dead on the field; and I am convinced, from the constant fire we kept up, that many more must have been slain, but were hid from our view, by the thick Palmetto bushes. We lay on the battle ground all night, and started next day at 10 o'clock—marched 5 miles, and again threw up breast-works, between two ponds—living upon gophers, alligators, and Palmetto stocks, until serjeant-major Reese arrived with provisions, and 14 horses—when we were enabled to proceed to St. John's, with all our sick and wounded, where a gun-boat, by the direction of Col. Smith, was in waiting for us, which conveyed us to his camp, where we met with every attention, that humanity or benevolence could bestow.

The number of Indians, in the first engagement, from every circumstance that appeared, must have been from 75 to 100. In the second engagement, their number must have been double our's; and, in the third engagement, there appeared to be 50, which was nearly equal to our force, deducting sick and wounded. I believe the loss of the enemy was fifty.

I have the honor to be, &c.

DANIEL NEWMAN.

His Ex. David B. Mitchell.

RUSSEL'S INDIAN EXPEDITION.

Copy of a letter from Col. Russell, commanding a detachment of the U. States Rangers, to the Secretary of War, dated

Camp Russell, 31*st Oct.* 1812.

SIR—This will inform you, that I arrived at this place, from Vincennes, after Gen. Hopkins had marched his mounted riflemen up to fort Harrison. I took with me, a part of three companies of U. States rangers, where I was joined by Gov. Edwards, with his mounted riflemen; the whole of our strength amounted to 360 privates. We penetrated very far into the Indian country, with an expectation of co-operating with Gen. Hopkins, who, by appointment, was to meet us at the Peoria towns, on the Illinois. In this, we were sadly disappointed, as we could get no intelligence of his army. This prevented us from doing as much damage to the Indians, as otherwise we could have done, As our numbers were too weak to make any delay in that quarter; as this was farther than any troops had hitherto penetrated—we stole a march upon the celebrated Pimartam's town, situated about 21 miles above Peoria, and immediately at the head of Peoria Lake. This was a well built town, and contained a number of Indians; between the town and river, was a dismal swamp, in which they immediately flew for shelter, returning a few scattering shots. Our men nobly pursued them through the swamp—and also others, as they were crossing the Illinois river; the men also pursued them to the opposite bank, and brought back some of their canoes, and several dead bodies. The Governor states, to be upwards of 20 killed, of the enemy.—This was a flourishing town, with an immense deal of Indian plunder in it, together with a great deal of corn; all of which was committed to the flames. I believe not less than 80 horses fell into our hands, belonging to the enemy. Several white persons' scalps, were also found among their plunder. I had the immediate command of the battalion, and

the superior command was retained by his excellency, the Governor. On this expedition, we were fortunate; we had but 4 men wounded, and none mortally. This tour was performed, from this camp, and back to this place, in 13 days.

I have the honor, &c.

W. RUSSELL,
Col. 7th Dist. Comdt.

CAPTURE OF THE MACEDONIAN.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Decatur, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. Ship, United States,
At sea, Oct. 30, 1812.

SIR—I have the honour to inform you that, on the 25th inst. in lat. 29° north, lon. 29° 30′ west, we fell in with, and, after an action of an hour and a half, captured his Britannic majesty's ship Macedonian, commanded by Capt. John Carden, and mounting 49 carriage-guns—the odd gun shifting. She is a frigate of the largest class, two years old, four months out of dock, and reputed one of the best sailers in the British service. The enemy, being to windward, had the advantage of engaging us at his own distance, which was so great, that, for the first half hour, we did not use our carronades; and at no moment was he within the complete effect of our musquetry or grape; to this circumstance, and a heavy swell, which was on at the time, I ascribe the unusual length of the action.

The enthusiasm of every officer, seaman, and marine, on board this ship, on discovering the enemy—their steady conduct in battle, and precision of their fire, could not be surpassed—where all met my fullest expectations, it would be unjust, in me, to discriminate. Permit me, however, to recommend to your particular notice, my 1st Lieutenant, Wm. H. Allen: he has served with me upwards of 5 years; and, to his unre-

mitted exertions, in disciplining the crew, is to be imputed the obvious superiority of our gunnery, exhibited in the result of this contest.

Subjoined is a list of the killed and wounded, on both sides. Our loss, compared with that of the enemy, will appear small. Amongst our wounded, you will observe the name of Lieut. Funk, who died a few hours after the action; he was an officer of great gallantry and promise, and the service has sustained a severe loss in his death.

The Macedonian lost her mizen mast, fore and main top masts, and main yard, and was much cut up in her hull; the damage sustained, by this ship, was not such as to render her return into port necessary; and, had I not deemed it important that we should see our prize in, should have continued our cruise.

With the highest, &c.

STEPHEN DECATUR.

LSIT OF KILLED AND WOUNDED, ON BOARD THE UNITED STATES.

Killed—Privates - - -	5
Wounded—1 Lieut. and 6 privates -	7
Total, killed and wounded, - -	12

ON BOARD THE MACEDONIAN.

Killed, - - - -	36
Wounded—68, viz.—1st and 3d Lieutenants, Master's Mate, 2 Midshipmen, and seamen, -	68
Total, killed and wounded of the enemy,	104

S. DECATUR.

DEFENCE OF FORT NIAGARA.

To Brigadier General Smyth, commanding the Army of the Centre.

SIR—I beg leave to inform you that, on the morning of the 21st Nov. at 6 o'clock, a heavy cannonading opened upon this garrison, from all the batteries at, and in the neighborhood of fort George, which lasted, without intermission, until after sun-down. They had 5 detached batteries; 2 mounting 24 pounders, 1 mounting a 9 pounder, and 2 mortar batteries; one ten and a half, and the other five and a half inch—the batteries firing hot shot, which set some of our buildings on fire. But, from the extraordinary vigilance of the officers and men, particularly Major Armistead, of the U. S. corps of engineers, whose indefatigable exertions were extended to all parts of the garrison, the fires were got under, without being observed by the enemy.

Our garrison was not as well provided with artillery and ammunition, as I could have wished; however, the batteries opened a tremendous fire upon them, in return, with hot shot, admirably well directed. Several times, during the cannonading, the town of Newark was in flames; but was extinguished by their engines, as also the centre building in fort George. Their Mess-house, and all the buildings near it, were consumed. Capt. M'Keon, commanded a 12 pounder, in the S. E. block-house, and distinguished himself, by his usual gallantry and skill. Capt. Jacks, of the 7th regiment, militia artillery, commanded a 6 pounder in the north block-house; and, together with a part of his own company, though placed in a situation most exposed to the fire of the enemy, maintained their position like veterans. Lieut. Reese, of the 3d regiment, artillery, had the command of an 18 pounder, on the S. E. battery, which was pointed at a battery, *en barbette*, mounting a 24 pounder, and also at Fort George; several well directed shot were made from this gun, which proved the skill of its commander. About 10 o'clock, Lieutenant

Rees had his shoulder bruised, by a part of the parapet falling on him; which, though it did not materially injure him, obliged him to retire; and capt. Leonard, of the 1st regiment, artillery, at that moment arriving, he took the command of this battery, during the remainder of the day. Lieut. Wendel, of the 3d regiment artillery, had the command of an 18 and 4 pounder, on the west battery; and Doctor Hooper, of Capt. Jack's company of militia artillery, had the command of a 6 pounder, on the mess-house. Of these gentlemen, and their commands, I cannot speak with too much praise; they distinguished themselves highly; and, from their shot, all of which were hot, the town of Newark was repeatedly fired, and one of the enemy's batteries silenced for a time.

An instance of very extraordinary bravery, in a female, (the wife of one Doyle, a private in the U. States artillery, made a prisoner at Queenstown) I cannot pass over:—during the most tremendous cannonading I have ever seen, she attended the 6 pounder, on the old mess-house, with the red hot shot, and showed fortitude equalling the Maid of Orleans.

Lieuts. Gansevoort and Harris, of the 1st regiment, U. States artillery, had the command of the salt battery, at Youngstown, mounting one 18 and a 4 pounder; these two guns played upon the garrison of fort George, and the buildings near it; from every observation I could make, during their fire, I am happy to say, they merited my warmest thanks, for their skill in the service of these guns. Lieut. Harris, from his 4 pounder, sunk a schooner, which lay at their wharf;—these two officers, and their men, in the warmest part of the cannonading, having fired away all their cartridges, cut up their flannel waistcoats and shirts, and the soldiers their trowsers, to supply their guns.—I cannot say too much in praise of all the officers and soldiers of the artillery, immediately under my observation, in this garrison; they merit the thanks and esteem of their country, for the defence of it, and I believe it never sustained so sharp and continued a bombardment.

The enemy threw more than 2000 red-hot balls into

it, and a number of shells, amounting to 180, only one of which did injury to our men. Lieut. Col. Gray commanded the artillery; the unremitting attention paid to his duty, proved him an officer, whose zeal and science do honor to himself and country; to this gentleman I feel much indebted, for the manner in which he acquitted himself.

To the officers of my regiment, (particularly Captain Milligan) and the soldiers who assisted the artillery, and those employed in extinguishing the fires, and carrying off the killed and wounded, I am also much indebted—they merit my warmest thanks. To Dr. West, of the garrison, Dr. Augam, of the 14th regiment, U. States Infantry, and Dr. Craig, of the 22d regiment, U. States infantry, I offer my thanks; they were employed, during the entire day, in the most critical duties of their profession.

Our killed is, 4. Wounded, 7—total 11.—From the numbers carried off (which we saw) from the enemy's batteries, I presume many more were killed and wounded, on their side. Only two of the above men was killed by the enemy's shot; the others, by the bursting of a 12 pounder, in the S. E. battery.

GEORGE M'FEELEY, *Lieut. Col.*

Commmanding Fort Niagara.

Brig. Gen. Smyth.

EXPEDITION ON THE WABASH.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Samuel Hopkins, to his Excellency Governor Shelby.

On Wabash, near the mouth of Pine-creek,
27th Nov. 1812.

SIR—By Col. Richard Taylor, Quarter-master General, who goes on as quick as possible to Frankfort, I have it in my power to give you general information of the movements of the army, since my last.—On the 11th, the

army marched from fort Harrison, on the road formerly made by Gov. Harrison's army, and the boats set out at the same time. The length of time the enemy had expected us, made it necessary to guard ourselves in an especial manner. The rise of the waters, from a heavy fall of rain, preceding our march, and some large creeks, left us no doubt of considerable difficulty and embarrassment; insomuch, that not until the 14th did we pass Sugar Creek, 3 miles above the road.

From every information, I had no hesitation in moving on the east side of the Wabash; the Vermillions, Pine-creek, and other impediments on the west side, superadded to the presumption that we were expected, and might more easily be annoyed and ambuscaded on that route, determined me in this measure; the boats, too, with our provisions of rations, forage, and military stores, could be more easily covered and protected, as the line of march could be, invariably, nearer the river. Lieut. Col. Barbour, with one battalion of his regiment, had command of the 7 boats, and encamped with us, on the bank of the river, almost every night. This so protracted our march, that we did not reach the Prophet's town until the 19th: on the morning of this day, I detached 300 men, to surprize the Winebago town, lying on Ponce Passu creek, one mile from the Wabash, and 4 below the Prophet's. This party, commanded by Gen. Butler, surrounded the place, about break of day, and found it evacuated. There were, in the main town, about 40 houses, many of them from 30 to 50 feet in length; besides many huts, in the surrounding Priarie, in which they had cultivated a good deal of corn.

On the 20th, 21st, and 22d, we were employed in the complete destruction of the Prophet's town, which contained about 40 cabins and huts, and the large Kickapoo village adjoining, below it, on the west side of the river, consisting of about 160 cabins and huts; finding, and destroying their corn, reconnoitering the circumjacent part of the country, and constructing works, for the defence of our army and boats. Seven miles east of us, on the Ponce Passu creek, a party of Indians were discovered—

they had fired on a small party of ours, on the 21st, and killed a man, by the name of Dunn, a gallant soldier, in Capt, Duvall's company. On the 22d, upwards of sixty horsemen, under the command of Lieut. Colonels Miller and Wilcox, anxious to bury their comrade, as well as to obtain a more complete knowledge of the ground, went on to a point near the Indian encampment, fell into an ambuscade, and 18 of our party were killed, wounded, and missing. Among these, are three hopeful young officers, and one private, from the 8th regiment, viz.—Mars, Edwards, Murray, and the private, Webb, presumed to be killed; the other 14, were of the Rangers. On the return of this party, and the information of a large assemblage of the enemy, who, encouraged by the strength of their camp, appeared to be waiting for us, every preparation was made to march early, and engage the enemy at every risk; when, from the most violent storm, and fall of snow, attended with the coldest weather I ever saw or felt, at this season of the year, and which did not subside until the evening of the 23d, we were delayed until the 24th. Upon arriving on the ground, we found the enemy had deserted the camp before the fall of snow, and had passed the Ponce Passu. I have no doubt but their ground was the strongest I ever have seen; the deep, rapid creek, spoken of, was in their rear, running in a semicircle, and fronted by a bluff, 100 feet high, almost perpendicular, and only to be penetrated by three steep ravines; if the enemy would not defend themselves here, it was evident they did not intend fighting at all. After reconnoitering sufficiently, we returned to camp, and found the ice so accumulated, as to alarm us for the return of the boats. I had fully determined to have spent one more week in endeavoring to find the Indian camps; but the shoeless, shirtless state of the troops, now clad in the remnants of their summer dress; a river full of ice; the hills covered with snow; a rigid climate, and no certain point to which we could direct our operations; under the influence of the advice of every field and staff officer, orders were given, and measures pursued for our return, on the 25th. We are now progressing to Fort Harrison, through the ice

and snow, where we expect to arrive on the last day of this month.

Before I close this, I cannot forbear expressing the merits of the officers and soldiers of this command. After leaving, at fort Harrison, all unfit for duty, we had, in privates of every corps, about 1000—in the total, 1250; at the Prophet's town, upwards of 100 of these were on the sick report. Yet, sir, have we progressed in such order, as to menace our enemy, from any annoyance. Seven large keel boats have been covered and protected, to a point, hitherto unknown in Indian expeditions. Three large Indian establishments have been burnt, and destroyed, with near three miles of fence, (and all the corn we could find,) besides many smaller ones;—a march, on the east side of the Wabash, without road, or cognizance of the country, fully 100 miles, perfected; and this was done, with a naked army of infantry, aided by only about fifty rangers and spies: all this will have been done, in twenty days—no sigh, no murmur or complaint.

I have the honor to be, &c.

SAMUEL HOPKINS.

His Ex. Gov. Shelby.

ARMY PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a Dispatch, from Brig. Gen. Smyth, to Maj. Gen. Dearborn, transmitted to the Secretary of War, dated

Camp, near Buffaloe, 4th Dec. 1812.

SIR—The troops, under my command, having been ordered to hut themselves for the winter, it becomes my duty to report to you the proceedings had here, since I took command on this frontier.

On or about the 26th of October, I ordered that 20 scows should be prepared, for the transportation of cavalry and artillery, and put the carpenters of the army upon that duty. By the 26th Nov. ten scows were completed;

and, by bringing boats from Lake Ontario, the number was increased to seventy.

I had issued an address, to the men of New-York; and, perhaps, 300 volunteers had arrived at Buffaloe. I presumed that the regular troops, and the volunteers, under Colonels Swift and M'Clure, would furnish 2,300 men, for duty; and, of Gen. Tannehill's brigade, reporting a total of 1,650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross over into Canada. I deemed myself ready "to cross with 3000 men, at *once*," according to your orders. Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th Nov. I sent over two parties; one, under Lieut. Col. Boerstler; the other, under Capt. King, with whom Lieut. Angus, of the navy, at the head of a body of seamen, united.

The first mentioned party was to capture a guard, and destroy a bridge, about 5 miles below fort Erie; the second party were to take, and render useless the enemy's batteries, and some pieces of light artillery. The first party made some prisoners, but failed to destroy the bridge. The second party, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated, by some misapprehension. Lieut. Angus, the seamen, and part of the troops returned, with all the boats, while Capt. King, Capt. Morgan, Capt. Sproul, Lieut. Houston, and about sixty men, remained. Capt. King, notwithstanding, with those under his command, advanced to the enemy's batteries, attacked and took two of them in succession, rendered unserviceable the cannon, and took a number of prisoners. In descending the Niagara some distance, two boats were found—on board of which Capt. King sent his prisoners, all his officers, and half his men; his high sense of honour would not allow him to quit the remainder—he was captured with them.

Orders had been given, that all the troops in the neighborhood, should march at revalie, to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment, sent in the night, having returned, and having excited apprehensions for the residue, about 250 men, under Col. Winder, put off, in boats, for the opposite shore; a part of their force had landed, when a force, with a piece of artillery, appeared:—a re-

treat was ordered, and Col. Winder's detachment suffered a loss of 6 killed, and 20 wounded; of whom, six were officers. The general embarkation commenced, as the troops arrived; but, this being the first time the troops had embarked, the whole of the scows were occupied by about one third part of the artillery; while about 800 regular infantry, something upwards of 200 twelve month's volunteers, and, perhaps, 200 of those militia who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops, then embarked, moved up the stream, to Black Rock, without sustaining loss from the enemy's fire. It was now the afternoon, and they were ordered to disembark, and dine. The enemy showed a force, estimated at five or six hundred men, drawn up in a field, at some distance from the river; and had one piece of artillery, said to be a 9 pounder, ready to fire on our troops.

There remained, unembarked, a part of the artillery; a few cavalry; the volunteers, under Col. M'Clure—amounting, on that day, to 340 men; a detachment from Gen. Tannehill's brigade; (number unknown, and little to be relied on,) there were also sundry crowds, who might have followed the army—if it was successful.

Recollecting your instructions, "to cross with 3000 men *at once*," and to consult some of my principal officers, in "all important movements," I called for the field officers, of the regular and twelve months volunteers, embarked; Col. Porter not being found at the moment, Capt. Gibson was called, as the next senior officer of artillery. These questions were put:—"Is it expedient now to cross over? Is the force, we have, sufficient to conquer the opposite coast?" The first question was decided in the negative, by Colonels Parker, Schuyler, Winder, Lieut. Colonels Boerstler and Coles, and Major Campbell. Col. Swift, of the volunteers, *alone* gave an opinion for *then* crossing over. The second question was not decided;—Col. Parker, Col. Schuyler, Lieut. Col. Coles, and Major Campbell, were decidedly of opinion that the force was insufficient;—Colonels Winder and Swift, Lieut. Colonel Boerstler, and Capt. Gibson, deemed the force sufficient.—

I determined to postpone crossing over, until more complete preparation would enable me to embark *at once*, according to your instructions: the next day was spent in such preparations, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation, at 8 o'clock, on the morning of the 30th November. On their arrival, they were sent into the adjacent woods, there to build fires, and remain until 3 o'clock in the morning, of the 1st of December, when it was intended to put off two hours before day-light, so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon; in passing the position which, it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippewa, assault that place, and, if successful, march through Queenstown, to fort George. The Contractor was called on, to furnish rations, for 2500 men, for four days; when it was found, he could furnish the pork, but not the flour; sixty barrels were required, and only thirty furnished. The embarkation commenced; but was delayed by circumstances, so as not to be completed until after day-light—when it was found, the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177 men, Col. Swift's volunteers, about 230, six companies of Federal Volunteers. amounting to 276 men, about 100 militia, of Col. Dobbins's regiment, and a few men in a boat with Mr. P. B. Porter, contractor's agent, who was to pilot the enterprize, had embarked; the whole on board, without the commissioned officers, being 1500 men; and it was now two hours later than the time fixed on for setting out.

There were some groups of men, not yet embarked; they were applied to, requested, and ordered, by the Brigade Major, to get into the boats; they did not. He estimated their number at 150—it was probably greater.

It then became a question, whether it was expedient to invade Canada, in open day-light, with 1500 men, at a point where no reinforcement could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of regular troops was declining rapidly; I knew that on them, chiefly, I was to depend.

I called together officers, commanding corps of the regular army. Col. Parker being sick, those present were Col. Porter, of the artillery, Col. Schuyler, Col. Winder,

and Lieut. Col. Coles. I put to them this question :—" Shall we proceed ?" They *unanimously* decided that we ought not.—I foresaw that the volunteers, who had come out for a few days, would disperse. Several of them had, on the evening of the 25th, broken their muskets, because they had not seen a battle; I foresaw that the number of regular troops would decrease; the measles had affected them generally; the constant use of fresh meat had produced dysenteries, and they were now in tents, in the month of December. I informed the officers, that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made, until the army was reinforced, and directed them to withdraw their troops, and cover them with huts immediately. The volunteers, and neighboring people, were dissatisfied, and it has been in the power of the contractor's agent to excite some clamor against the course pursued; he finds the contract a losing one, at this time, and would wish to see the army in Canada, that he might not be bound to supply it.

I am sorry that the situation of the force, under my command, had not been such, as to make the propriety of a forward movement to all. Circumstanced as we were, I have thought it my duty to follow the cautious counsels of experience, and not, by precipitation, to add another to the list of our defeats.

You will perceive my motives, by my letter of the 30th Oct. wherein I said—" I would cross in three days, if I had the means; without them, it would be injustice to the nation and myself, to attempt it—*I must not be defeated.*

I have the honor, &c.

ALEXANDER SMYTH, *Brig. Gen.*

Maj. Gen. Dearborn,

HEALD'S DEFEAT BY THE INDIANS.

Letter from Captain Heald, late Commandant at Fort Chicago, dated

Pittsburgh, Oct. 23, 1812.

On the 9th of August last, I received orders from Gen. Hull, to evacuate the post, and proceed, with my command,

to Detroit by land, leaving it at my discretion, to dispose of the public property as I thought fit.

The neighboring Indians got the information, as early as I did; and came in, from all quarters, in order to receive the goods in the factory store, which they understood were to be given them. On the 13th, Capt. Wells, of Fort Wayne, arrived, with about thirty Miamies, for the purpose of escorting us in, by the request of Gen. Hull. On the 14th, I delivered the Indians all the goods in the factory store, and a considerable quantity of provisions, which we could not take away with us. The surplus arms, and ammunition, I thought proper to destroy, fearing they would make a bad use of it, if put into their possession; I also destroyed all the liquor on hand, soon after they began to collect. The collection was unusually large for that place, but they conducted with the strictest propriety until I left the fort.

On the 15th, at 9 in the morning, we commenced our march; a part of the Miamies were detached in front, and the remainder in our rear, as guards, under the direction of Capt. Wells. The situation of the country rendered it necessary for us to take the beach, with the lake on our left, and a high sand-bank on our right, at about 100 yards distance. We had proceeded about a mile and a half, when it was discovered that the Indians were prepared to attack us, from behind the bank. I immediately marched up with the company, to the top of the bank, when the action commenced: after firing one round, we charged, and the Indians gave way in front, and joined those on our flanks. In about 15 minutes, they got possession of all our horses, provisions, and baggage, of every description; and, finding the Miamies did not assist us, I drew off the few men I had left, and took possession of a small elevation, in the open priarie, out of shot of the bank, and every other cover. The Indians did not follow me, but assembled in a body, on the top of the bank, and after some consultation among themselves, made signs for me to approach them.

I advanced towards them, alone, and was met by one of the Potawatamie chiefs, called the Black-bird, with an in-

terpreter; after shaking hands, he requested me to surrender, promising to spare the lives of all the prisoners. On a few moments' consideration, I concluded it would be most prudent to comply with his request, although I did not put entire confidence in his promise. After delivering up our arms, we were taken back to their encampment, near the fort, and distributed among the different tribes.

The next morning, they set fire to the fort, and left the place, taking the prisoners with them; their number of warriors was between 4 and 500, mostly of the Potawatimie nation, and their loss was about 15. Our strength was 54 regulars, and 12 militia—out of which, 26 regulars, and all the militia, were killed in the action, with two women and twelve children. Ensign Ronan, and Doctor Voorhis, of my company, with Captain Wells, of Fort Wayne, to my great sorrow, numbered among the dead. Lieut. Helm, with 25 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 11 women and children, were prisoners when we were separated. Mrs. Heald and myself, were taken to the mouth of the river St. Joseph, and, being both badly wounded, were permitted to reside with Mr. Burnet, an Indian trader. In a few days after our arrival there, the Indians all went off to take fort Wayne; and, in their absence, I engaged a Frenchman to take us to Mackinac, by water, where I gave myself up as a prisoner of war, with one of my sergeants. The commanding officer, Capt Roberts, offered me every assistance in his power, to render our situation comfortable, while we remained there, and to enable us to proceed on our journey. To him I gave my parole of honor, and came on to Detroit, and reported myself to Col. Proctor, who gave us a passage to Buffaloe: from that place, I came by way of Presque-Isle, and arrived here yesterday. J. HEALD, *Captain.*

ELLIOT'S AFFAIR ON LAKE ERIE.

Letter from Captain Elliot, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated Black-Rock, Oct. 9th, 1812.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that, on the morning of the 8th inst. two British vessels, which I was in-

formed were his Britannic majesty's brig *Detroit*, (late the U. S. brig *Adams*,) and the brig Hunter, mounting 14 guns, but which afterwards proved to be the brig Caledonia, both said to be well armed and manned, came down the lake, and anchored under the protection of fort Erie. Having been on the lines, for some time, and, in a measure, inactively employed, I determined to make an attack, and, if possible, get possession of them. A strong inducement to this attempt, arose from a conviction that, with these two vessels, added to those I have purchased, and am fitting out, I should be able to meet the remainder of the British force, on the Upper Lakes, and save an incalculable expence and labour to the government.

On the morning of their arrival, I heard that our seamen were but a short distance from this place, and immediately dispatched an express to the officers, directing them to use all possible dispatch, in getting their men to this place, as I had important service to perform. On their arrival, which was about 12 o'clock, I discovered that they had only twenty pistols, and neither cutlasses nor battle-axes. But, on application to Generals Smyth and Hall, of the regulars and militia, I was supplied with a few arms; and Gen. Smyth was so good, on my request, as immediately to detach 50 men from the regulars, armed with musquets.

By 4 o'clock, P. M. I had my men selected, and stationed in two boats, which I had previously prepared for the purpose. With these boats, 50 men in each, and under circumstances very disadvantageous, my men having scarcely had time to refresh themselves, after a fatiguing march of 500 miles, I put off from the mouth of Buffaloe creek, at 1 o'clock, the following morning, and at 3, I was along side the vessels. In the space of about 10 minutes, I had the prisoners all secured, the top-sails sheeted home, and the vessels under way. Unfortunately, the wind was not sufficiently strong to get me up against a rapid current, into the lake, where I had understood another armed vessel lay at anchor; and I was obliged to run down the river, by the forts, under a heavy fire of round, grape, and canister, from a number of pieces of heavy ordnance,

and several pieces of flying artillery, was compelled to anchor at the distance of about 400 yards from two of their batteries. After the discharge of the first gun, which was from the flying artillery, I hailed the shore, and observed to the officer, that if another gun was fired, I would bring the prisoners on deck, and expose them to the same fate we should all share; but, notwithstanding, they disregarded the caution, and continued a constant, and destructive fire. One single moment's reflection, determined me not to commit an act, that would subject me to the imputation of barbarity. The Caledonia had been beached, in as safe a position as the circumstances would admit of, under one of our batteries at Black Rock. I now brought all the guns of the Detroit on one side, next the enemy, stationed the men at them, and directed a fire, which continued as long as our ammunition lasted, and circumstances permitted. During the contest, I endeavored to get the Detroit on one side, by sounding a line, (there being no wind,) on shore, with all the line I could muster; but, the current being so strong, the boat could not reach the shore. I then hailed our shore, and requested that warps would be made fast on land, and sent on board; the attempt proved useless. As the fire was such as would, in all probability, sink the vessel in a short time, I determined to drift down the river, out of reach of their batteries, and make a stand against the flying artillery.

I, accordingly, cut the cable, made sail with very light airs, and at that instant discovered that the pilot had abandoned me. I dropped astern for about ten minutes, when I was brought up on our shore, on Squaw Island—got the boarding-boat ready, had the prisoners put in, and sent on shore, with directions for the officer, to return for me, and what property we could get from the brig; he did not return, owing to the difficulty of the boats getting ashore. Discovering a skiff, under the counter, I put the four remaining prisoners in the boat, and, with my officers, I went on shore to bring the boat off. I asked for protection to the brig, of Lieut. Col. Scott, who readily gave it. At this moment, I discovered a boat, with about 40 soldiers, from the British side, making for the brig; they got on

board, but were soon compelled to abandon her, with the loss of nearly all their men. During the whole of this morning, both parties kept up, alternately, a continued fire upon the brig, and so much injured her, that it was impossible to have floated her; several shot in her bends, her sails in ribbons, and rigging all cut in pieces.

To my officers and men, I feel under great obligation; to Capt. Towson, and Lieut. Roach, of the 2d regiment of artillery, Ensign Prestman, of the infantry, Capt. Chapin, Mr. John M'Comb, Messrs. Town, Dain, Overstocks, and Sloan, resident gentlemen of Buffaloe, for their soldier and sailor-like conduct; in a word, sir, every man fought, as with their hearts, animated only by the honor and interest of their country.

The prisoners, I have turned over to the military. The Detroit mounted 6 six pounder long guns, a commanding Lieutenant of marines, a boatswain and gunner, and 56 men—about 30 American prisoners on board, musquets, pistols, cutlasses, and battle axes. In boarding her, I lost one man, one officer wounded, Mr. John C. Cummings, acting Midshipman, a bayonet through the leg—his conduct was correct, and deserves the notice of the Department. The Caledonia mounted two small guns, blunderbusses, pistols, musquets, cutlasses, and boarding-pikes; 12 men, including officers, and 10 prisoners on board; the boat, boarding her, commanded by sailing-master George Watts, who performed his duty in a masterly style; but one man killed, and four wounded badly. I enclose you a list of the officers and men engaged in the enterprise, and also a view of the lake and river, in the different situations of attack: in a day or two, I shall forward the names of the prisoners. The Caledonia belongs to the North-West Company, loaded with furs, worth, I understand, 200,000 dollars.

I have the honor, &c.

JESSE D. ELLIOTT.

Hon. P. Hamilton, Sec. Navy.

CAPTURE OF THE JAVA.

Copy of a letter from Commodore William Bainbridge, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. States Frigate Constitution,
St Salvadore, 3d Jan. 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the 29th ult. at 2, P. M. in S. lat. 13, 6, and W. lon. 38, about 10 leagues distance from the coast of Brazils, I fell in with, and captured his B. M. frigate Java, of 49 guns, and upwards of 400 men, commanded by Captain Lambert, a very distinguished officer. The action lasted 1 hour and 55 minutes, in which time the enemy was completely dismasted, not having a spar of any kind standing. The loss on board the Constitution, was 9 killed, and 25 wounded, as per enclosed list. The enemy had 60 killed, and 101 wounded, certainly; (among the latter, Capt. Lambert, mortally,) but, by the enclosed letter, written on board this ship, (by one of the officers of the Java,) and accidentally found, it is evident that the enemy's wounded must have been much greater than as above stated, and who must have died of their wounds, previously to their being removed—the letter states, 60 killed, and 170 wounded.

For further details of the action, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed extracts from my journal. The Java had, in addition to her own crew, upwards of 100 supernumerary officers and seamen, to join the British ships of war, in the East Indies; also Lieut. General Hyslop, appointed to the command of Bombay, Major Walker, and Capt. Wood, of his staff, and Capt. Marshall, master and commander in the British navy, going to the East Indies, to take command of a sloop of war. Should I attempt to do justice, by representation, to the brave and good conduct of all my officers and crew, during the action, I should fail in the attempt; therefore, suffice it to say, that the whole of their conduct was such as to merit my highest encomiums.—I beg leave to recommend the officers, particularly, to the notice of government, as also the unfortunate seamen,

who were wounded, and the families of those brave men who fell in the action. The great distance from our own coast, and the perfect wreck we made of the enemy's frigate, forbade every idea of attempting to take her to the U. States; I had, therefore, no alternative but burning her, which I did, on the 31st ult. after receiving all the prisoners and their baggage, which was very tedious work, only having 1 boat left, out of 8, and not one left on board the Java.

On blowing up the frigate Java, I proceeded to this place, where I have landed all the prisoners on their parole, to return to England, and there remain until regularly exchanged; and not to serve in their *professional capacities*, in any place, or in any manner whatever, against the U. S. of America, until regularly exchanged.

I have the honor, &c.

WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE.

Hon. Sec. Navy.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED,

On board the U. States Frigate Constitution, under the command of Com. Wm. Bainbridge, in an action with his B. M. Frigate Java, Henry Lambert, Esq. commander, Dec. 29, 1812.

Killed, 9—*Wounded*, Com. Bainbridge, Lieut, Aylwin, Master's Mate, Waldo, and Qr. Master Woodbury, 4—*Wounded*, Seamen and Marines, 21—total 34.

A. A. EVANS, *Surgeon.*
R. C. LUDLOW, *Purser.*

W. Bainbridge.

The following is a list of his B. M. military and naval officers, paroled at St. Salvadore, by Com. Bainbridge, viz.

One Lieut. General, 1 Major, 1 Captain, (military officers,) 1 Post-Captain, 1 Master and Commander, 5 Lieutenants, 3 Lieuts. of Marines, 1 Surgeon, 2 Asst. Surgeons, 1 Purser, 15 Midshipmen, 1 Gunner, 1 Boatswain, 1 Master, 1 Carpenter, 2 Capts. Clerks—making 28 officers, and 323 petty officers, seamen, and marines; add 161, the killed and wounded, and it will appear that 512 men were on board the Java.

At 2, 10, P. M. commenced the action, within good grape and canister distance, the enemy to windward, (but much further than I wished.)—at 2, 30, our wheel was shot entirely away—2, 40, determined to close with the enemy, notwithstanding his raking; set the fore and main sail, and luffed up close to him.—2, 50, the enemy's jib-boom got foul of our mizen rigging—3, the enemy's bowsprit-head, and jib-boom, shot away by us—3, 5, shot away the enemy's foremast, by the board—3, 15, shot away the main top-mast, just above the cap—3, 40, shot away gaff, and spanker boom—3, 55, shot away his mizen mast, just by the board—4, 5, having silenced the fire of the enemy completely, and his colors and main rigging being down, supposed he had struck; then hauled aboard the courses, to shoot ahead, to repair our rigging, which was extremely cut, leaving the enemy a complete wreck; soon after, discovered the enemy's flag was still flying—hove too, to repair some of our damage—4, 20, the enemy's main mast went by the board—4, 50, wore ship, and stood for the enemy—5, 25, got very close to the enemy, in a very effectual *raking position*, athwart his bows, and was at the very instant of raking him, when he most prudently struck his flag; for, had he suffered the broadside to have raked him, his additional loss must have been extremely great.

W. BAINBRIDGE.

WINCHESTER'S AFFAIR.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Winchester, (now a prisoner of War,) to the Secretary of War.

Malden, January 23d 1813.

SIR—A detachment from the left wing of the N. W. Army, under my command, at Frenchtown, on the River Raisin, was attacked on the 22d inst. by a force, greatly superior in number, aided by several pieces of artillery. The action commenced at the dawn of day;

the picket guards were driven in, and a heavy fire opened on the whole line, by which a part thereof was thrown into disorder; and, being ordered to retire a small distance, in order to form on more advantageous ground, I found the enemy doubling our left flank, with force and rapidity.

A destructive fire was sustained for some time; at length, borne down by numbers, the few of us that remained, with the party that retired from the lines, submitted.

The remainder of our force, in number about 400, continued to defend themselves, with great gallantry, in an unequal contest, against small arms and artillery, until I was brought in as a prisoner, to that part of the field occupied by the enemy.

At this latter place, I understood that our troops were defending themselves, in a state of desparation, and was informed by the commanding officer of the enemy, that he would afford them an opportunity of surrendering themselves, prisoners of war; to which I acceded. I was the more ready to make the surrender, that, unless done quickly, the buildings adjacent would be immediately set on fire, and that no responsibility would be taken for the conduct of the savages, who were then assembled in great numbers. In this critical situation, being desirous to preserve the lives of a number of our brave fellows, who still held out, I sent a flag to them, and agreed with the commanding officer of the enemy, that they should be surrendered, prisoners of war, on condition of being protected from the savages, allowed to retain their private property, and having their side-arms returned to them. It is impossible for me to ascertain, with certainty, the loss we have sustained in this action, from the impracticability of knowing the number who made their escape.

Thirty-five officers, and about 487 non-commissioned officers and privates, are prisoners of war—our loss, in killed, is considerable.

However unfortunate may seem the affair of yesterday, I am flattered by a belief, that no material error

is chargeable upon myself, and that still less censure is deserved by the troops I had the honor of commanding.

With the exception of that portion of our force which was thrown into disorder, no troops have ever behaved with a more determined intrepidity. The Indians have, still, a few prisoners in their possession, which, I hope, will be given up to Col. Proctor, at Sandwich.

I have the honor, &c.

JAS. WINCHESTER, *Brig. Gen.*

Secretary of War.

FURTHER REPORT.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Winchester to the Secretary of War, dated Fort George, U. Canada, 11th Feb. 1813.

SIR—The first charge which my troops received, on the 22d ult. at the river Raisin, was from the 41st regiment of British regulars; out of 300 of these troops, 30 fell dead upon the field, and about one hundred wounded were removed from the ground. It is impossible to say how many of the Canadian militia, and his majesty's allies, fell; but the number must have been very great, as they were exposed, for 4 hours, to a continued and heavy fire from our musquets and rifles, our men being behind a breast-work. The action had endured about a quarter of an hour, when the right division of our troops, who were less secured by a breast-work, and exposed to a heavy fire from a body of Indians and militia, who had possessed themselves of some outhouses within their reach, were obliged to retreat from their lines in the encampment, for the purpose of occupying ground less exposed. This retreat being discovered by the enemy, the whole Indian force, together with a portion of the militia, bore down upon them with redoubled violence, and prevented, by their superiority of numbers, and the severity of their fire, the practicability of ever again forming this portion of our troops in order of battle. It was from this division

that our principal loss was sustained, few indeed having escaped. Every effort, in vain, was employed to form them in some order of action, as affording the only means of either repelling the pursuers, or regaining the temporary breast-work, from behind which, the remaining part of our troops still gallantly defended themselves; but every exertion was in vain employed, and the very few who survived, of the party, surrendered as prisoners to the enemy.

Our loss, in this action, will be ascertained by the list herewith enclosed. Among the killed, I have to lament several brave and valuable officers, some of whom had distinguished themselves in the action of the evening of the 18th, and fell on the 22d, while unavailingly engaged in rallying the troops, who retreated in disorder from the lines. Among those, the loss of Col. John Allen and Major Elijah M'Clannahan, is to be particularly regretted, as also Captain John H. Woolfolk, one of my aids-de-camp; their exertions were unsuccessful, notwithstanding every possible exertion was employed; they bravely fell in discharge of their respective duties. While I regret the fate of those who bravely fell upon this occasion, I should do injustice to pass over, without notice, the few partakers in their danger, who were fortunate to survive them. To Lieut. Col. William Lewis, who commanded on the 18th, and to Captain. John Overton, my aid-de-camp, who attended my person on the field, my thanks are particularly due, for their prompt and willing exertion, during every period of the conflict. To the officers and soldiers, who bravely maintained their ground in the temporary fortifications, too much praise cannot be bestowed. Assailed by numbers greatly superior, supported by six pieces of artillery, constantly employed, they gallantly defended, with small arms alone, for near four hours of constant battle. No troops ever behaved with more cool and determined bravery; from the commanding officer down to the private soldier, there was scarce a single abandonment of duty; and at the last, when their ammunition was nearly exhausted, and surrounded by

the enemy, greatly superior in number and the means of war, surrendered with a reluctance rarely to be found upon similar occasions. The officers commanding in the breast-work, and who deserve particular notice, if distinction could easily be drawn, were Majors Benjamin Graves and George Madison; Captains Hightower, Hart, Williams, Cholier, Sebree, Hamilton, Keleby, Bledsoe, Ballard, and James; Brigade-major James Garrard, Adjutant John M'Calla, and Quarter-master Pollard Keen; they defended themselves to the last, with great gallantry, and merit my warmest gratitude, as well as the highest praise of their country.

With sentiments of the highest respect, &c.

J. WINCHESTER, *Brig. Gen. U. S. A.*

Hon. Sec. at War.

Our loss in killed and missing is 397—the wounded being included in the list of prisoners forwarded.

CAPTURE OF THE PEACOCK.

Copy of a letter from Captain James Lawrence, of the U. S. Sloop of War Hornet, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship Hornet,
Holmes' Hole, March 19, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you of the arrival at this port, of the U. S ship Hornet, under my command, from a cruise of 145 days; and to state to you, that, after Com. Bainbridge left the coast of Brazils, (January 6,) I continued off the harbor of St. Salvadore, blockading the Bonne Citoyenne, until the 24th, when the Montague, 74, hove in sight, and chased me into the harbor; but, night coming on, I wore, and stood out to the southward.

Knowing that he had left Rio Janeiro, for the express purpose of relieving the Bonne Citoyenne, and the Packet (which I had also blockaded 14 days, and obliged her to send her mail to Rio in a Portuguese smack,) I judged it most prudent to shift my cruising

ground, and hauled by the wind to the westward, with a view of cruising off Pernambucca, and, on the 4th of February, captured the English brig Resolution, of 10 guns, from Rio Janeiro, bound to Maranham, with coffee, jerked beef, flour, fustic, and butter, and about 23,000 dollars in specie. As she sailed dull, and I could ill spare hands to man her, I took out the money and set her on fire. I then ran down the coast for Maranham, and cruised there a short time ; from thence, run off Surinam. After cruising off that coast, from the 15th until the 22d February, without meeting a vessel, I stood for Demarara, with an intention, should I not be fortunate on that station, to run through the W. Indies, on my way to the U. States ; but on the 24th, in the morning, I discovered a brig to leeward, to which I gave chace ; run into quarter less four, and not having a pilot, was obliged to haul off, the fort, at the entrance of Demarara river, bearing S. W. distant two and a half leagues. Previous to giving up the chace, I discovered a vessel at anchor, without the bar, with English colours flying, apparently a brig of war. In beating round Carobana bank, in order to get to her, at half past 3, P. M. I discovered another sail on my weather quarter, edging down for us—at 4, 20, she hoisted English colors, at which time we discovered her to be a large man of war brig—beat to quarters, and cleared ship for action, and kept close by the wind, in order, if possible, to get the weather-guage—at 5, 10, finding I could weather the enemy, I hoisted American colors, and tacked—at 5, 25, in passing each other, exchanged broadsides, within half pistol shot. Observing the enemy in the act of wearing, I bore up, received his starboard broadside, run him close on board, on the starboard quarter, and kept up such a heavy and well-directed fire, that in less than 15 minutes she surrendered, (being totally cut to pieces) and hoisted an ensign union down from his fore rigging, as a signal of distress. Shortly after, her main mast went by the board—dispatched Lieut. Shubrick on board, who soon returned with her 1st Lieut. who reported her to be his

B. M. late brig Peacock, commanded by Capt. William Peake, who fell in the latter part of the action; that a number of her crew were killed and wounded, and that she was sinking fast, she having then six feet water in her hold—dispatched the boats immediately for the wounded, and brought both vessels to anchor. Such shot-holes as could be got at, were then plugged, guns thrown overboard, and every possible exertion used to keep her afloat, until the prisoners could be removed, by pumping and bailing—but without effect, as she unfortunately sunk, in five and a half fathoms water, carrying down 13 of her crew, and three of my brave fellows, viz. John Hart, Joseph Williams, and Hannibal Boyd. Lieut. Conner and Midshipman Cooper, and the remainder of my men, employed in removing the prisoners, with difficulty saved themselves, by jumping into a boat that was lying on the booms, as she went down. Four men, of the 13 mentioned, were so fortunate as to gain the fore-top, and were afterwards taken off by our boats. Previous to her going down, four of her men took to her stern boat, that had been much damaged during the action, who, I sincerely hope, reached the shore; but, from the heavy sea, running at that time, the shattered state of the boat, and difficulty of landing on the coast, I am fearful they were lost.—I have not been able to ascertain, from her officers, the exact number of killed. Capt. Peake, and 4 men, were found dead on board; the Master, one Midshipman, Carpenter and Captain's Clerk, and 29 men wounded, most of them very severely, 3 of which died of their wounds after being removed, and 9 drowned.—Our loss was trifling, in comparison; John Place killed, Samuel Coulson, and Jos. Dalrymple, slightly wounded; our rigging and sails were very much cut; one shot through the foremast, and bowsprit slightly injured. Our hull received little or no damage.

At the time I brought the Peacock to action, the Espeigle, (the brig mentioned as being at anchor,) mounting sixteen 32lb. carronades, and 2 long nines, lay about 6 miles in shore of me, and could plainly see the whole of the action.—Apprehensive she would beat

out to the assistance of her consort, such exertions were used by my officers and crew, in repairing damages, &c. that by nine o'clock our boats were stowed, a new set of sails bent, and the ship completely ready for action. At 2, P. M. got under way, and stood by the wind to the northward and westward, under easy sail. On mustering next morning, found we had 277 souls on board, (including the crew of the American brig Hunter, of Portland, taken a few days before, by the Peacock,) and, as we had been on two-thirds allowance of provisions, for some time, and had but 3,400 gallons of water on board, I reduced the allowance to 3 pints a man, and determined to make the best of my way to the U. States.

The Peacock was deservedly styled one of the finest vessels of her class in the British navy. I should judge her to be about the tonnage of the Hornet; her beam was greater, by 5 inches, but her extreme length not so great, by 4 feet. She mounted sixteen 24 pr. carronades, 2 long nines, one 12 pr. carronade on her top-gallant forecastle, as a shifting gun, and one 4, or 6 pounder, and 2 swivels, mounted aft. I find, by her quarter bill, that her crew consisted of 134 men, 4 of whom were absent in a prize.

The cool and determined conduct of my officers and crew, during the action, and their almost unexampled exertions afterwards, entitle them to my warmest acknowledgments; and I beg leave, most earnestly, to recommend them to the notice of government.

By the indisposition of Lieut. Stewart, I was deprived of the services of an excellent officer; had he been able to stand on the deck, I am confident his exertions would not have been surpassed by any one on board. I should be doing injustice to the merits of Lieut. Shubrick, and acting Lieutenants Conner and Newton, were I not to recommend them particularly to your notice. Lieut. Shubrick was in the actions with the Guerriere and Java—Captain Hull, and Commodore Bainbridge can bear testimony as to his coolness and good conduct on both occasions.

With the greatest respect, I am, &c.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy. JAS. LAWRENCE.

BATTLE OF YORK.

Copies of letters from Major-General Henry Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, York, Capitol of U. C.
April 27, 1813—8 *o'clock, P. M.*

SIR—We are in full possession of this place, after a sharp conflict, in which we lost some brave officers and soldiers. Gen. Sheaffe commanded the British troops, militia and Indians, in person.—We shall be prepared to sail for the next object of the expedition, the first favourable wind. I have to lament the loss of the brave and active Brig Gen. Pike.

I am, &c.
H. DEARBORN.

Hon. J. Armstrong.

Head-Quarters, York, Capitol of U. C.
April 28, 1813.

SIR—After a detention of some days, by adverse winds, we arrived at this place yesterday morning, and at eight o'clock commenced landing the troops, about three miles westward from the town, and one and a half from the enemy's works. The wind was high, and in an unfavorable direction for the boats, which prevented the landing the troops at a clear field, the scite of the ancient French fort Tarento; it prevented, also, many of the armed vessels from taking positions, which would have, most effectually, covered our landing—but every thing that could be done was effected.

The riflemen, under Major Forsyth, first landed, under a heavy fire from Indians, and other troops. General Sheaffe commanded in person: he had collected his whole force in the woods, near the point where the wind compelled our troops to land; his force consisted of 700 regulars and militia, and 100 Indians. Major Forsyth was supported as promptly as possible; but the contest was sharp and severe for nearly half an hour, and the enemy were repulsed by a number far inferior to theirs. As soon

as Gen. Pike landed, with 7 or 800 men, and the remainder of the troops were pushing for the shore, the enemy retreated to their works. Our troops were now formed on the ground, originally intended for their landing, advanced through a thick wood, and after carrying one battery by assault, were moving in columns towards the main work; when within 60 rods of this, a tremendous explosion took place, from a magazine previously prepared, and which threw out such immense quantities of stone, as most seriously to injure our troops. I have not yet been able to collect the returns of the killed and wounded; but our loss will, I fear, exceed 100; and among these, I have to lament the loss of that brave and excellent officer, Brig. Gen. Pike, who received a contusion from a large stone, which terminated his valuable life within a few hours.—Previously to this explosion, the enemy had retired into the town, excepting a party of regulars, to the number of forty, who did not escape the shock, and were destroyed. Gen. Sheaffe moved off, with the regular troops, and left directions with the commanding officer of the militia, to make the best terms he could. In the mean time, all further resistance, on the part of the enemy, ceased; and the outlines of a Capitulation were agreed on.

As soon as I learned that Gen. Pike had been wounded, I went on shore; to the General, I had been induced to confide the immediate attack, from a knowledge that it was his wish, and that he would have felt mortified had it not been given to him.

Our loss in the morning, and in carrying the first battery, was not great; perhaps 40 or 50 killed and wounded, and of them a full proportion of officers. Notwithstanding the enemy's advantage in position, and numbers, in the commencement of the action, their loss was greater than ours, especially in officers.

I am under the greatest obligations to Com. Chauncey, for his able and indefatigable exertions, in every possible manner which could give facility and effect to the expedition; he is equally estimable for sound judgment, bravery, and industry; the government could not have made a more fortunate selection.

Unfortunately the enemy's armed ship, Prince Regent, left this place, for Kingston, a few days before we arrived. A large ship, on the stocks, and nearly planked up, and much naval stores, were set fire to by the enemy, soon after the explosion of the magazine; a considerable quantity of military stores, and provisions, remain, but no vessels fit for use.

We have not the means of transporting the prisoners, and must, of course, leave them on parole.

I hope we shall so far complete what is necessary to be done here, as to be able to sail to-morrow for Niagara, whither I send this, by a small vessel, with notice to Gen. Lewis, of our approach.

I have the honor, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. Sec. War.

TRANSPORTATION OF TROOPS TO YORK.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship Madison, at anchor,
Off York, 28th April, 1813.

SIR—Agreeably to your instructions, and arrangements, made with Major-General Dearborn, I took on board the squadron, under my command, the General and suite, and about 1700 troops, and left Sacket's Harbor on the 25th inst. for this place. We arrived here yesterday morning, and took a position about one mile to the south and westward of the enemy's principal fort, and as near the shore as we could, with safety to the vessels. The place fixed upon, by the Maj. Gen. and myself, for landing the troops, was the scite of the old French fort, Taranta. The debarkation commenced about 8 o'clock, A. M. and was completed about 10; the wind blowing heavy from the eastward, the boats fell to leeward of the position fixed upon, and were, in consequence, exposed to a galling fire from the enemy, who had taken a position in a thick wood, near where the first troops landed; however, the cool intrepidity of the officers and men, over-

came every obstacle. Their attack upon the enemy was so vigorous, that he fled in every direction, leaving a great many of his killed and wounded upon the field. As soon as the troops were landed, I directed the schooners to take a position near the forts, in order that the attack upon them, by the army and navy, might be simultaneous. The schooners were obliged to beat up to their position, which they did in very handsome order, under a very heavy fire from the enemy's batteries, and took a position within about 600 yards of their principal fort, and opened a heavy cannonade upon the enemy, which did great execution, and very much contributed to their final destruction.

The troops, as soon as landed, were formed under the immediate orders of Gen. Pike, who led, in a most gallant manner, the attack upon the forts, and after having carried two redoubts, in their approach to the principal work, (the enemy having previously laid a train,) blew up his magazine, which, in its effects upon our troops, was dreadful, having killed and wounded many; and among the former, the ever to be lamented Brig. Gen. Pike. His death, at this time, is much to be regretted, as he had the perfect confidence of the Major-General; and his own activity, zeal, and experience, make his loss a national one.

In consequence of the fall of Gen. Pike, the command of the troops devolved, for a time, upon Col. Pierce, who soon after took possession of the town. At about 2, P. M. the American flag was substituted for the British, and, at about 4, our troops were in quiet possession of the town.

As soon as Gen. Dearborn learnt the situation of Gen. Pike, he landed, and assumed the command.—I have the honor of enclosing a copy of the capitulation, which was entered into, and approved by General Dearborn, and myself.

The enemy set fire to some of his principal stores, containing large quantities of naval and military stores, as well as a large ship, upon the stocks, and nearly finished. The only vessel found there, is the Duke of Gloucester, undergoing repairs; the Prince Regent left here, on the 24th, for Kingston. We have not yet had a return made

of the naval and military stores, consequently can form no correct idea of the quantity, but have made arrangements to have all taken on board, that we can receive—the rest will be destroyed. I have to regret the death of Midshipmen Thompson and Hatfield, and several seamen killed; the returns from the different vessels have not yet been made.

I cannot speak in too much praise of the cool intrepedity of the officers and men, generally, under my command; and I feel myself particularly indebted to the officers, commanding vessels, for their zeal in seconding all my views.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones.

On board the squadron, there were 4 killed, and 8 wounded—total, 12.

TERMS OF CAPITULATION,

Entered into, on the 27th of April, 1813, for the surrender of the town of York, in Upper Canada, to the Army and Navy of the U. States, under the command of Maj. Gen. Dearborn, and Commodore Chauncey.

That the troops, regular and militia, at this post, and the naval officers and seamen, shall be surrendered prisoners of war—the troops, regular and militia, to ground their arms, immediately on parade, and the naval officers and seamen be immediately surrendered.

That all public stores, naval and military, shall be immediately given up, to the commanding officers of the army and navy of the U. States; all private property shall be guaranteed to the citizens of the town of York.

That all papers belonging to the civil officers, shall be retained by them;—that such surgeons, as may be procured to attend the wounded of the British regulars, and Canadian militia, shall not be considered prisoners of war.

That 1 Lieut. Colonel, 1 Major, 13 Captains, 9 Lieutenants, 11 Ensigns, 1 Quarter-master, 1 Dep. Adj. General, of the militia, 19 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 204 rank and file; of the field train department, 1; of the provincial

navy, 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Midshipmen, 1 Captain's Clerk, 1 Boatswain, 15 naval artificers. Of his majesty's regular troops, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant-Major; and of the royal artillery, 1 Bombardier, and 3 Gunners, shall be surrendered as prisoners of war, and accounted for in the exchange of prisoners, between the United States and Great Britain.

(Signed)

G. S. MITCHELL, Lieut. Col. 3d, A. U. S.
SAML. S. CONNER, Maj. and Aid to Gen. Dearborn.
WM. KING, Major, 15 U. S. Infantry.
JESSE D. ELLIOT, Lieut. U S. Navy.

W. CHEWITT, Lieut. Col comg. 3d Reg. York M.
W. ALLEN, Maj. 3d Reg. York Militia,
F. GAURREAU, Lieut. M. Dpt.

Our loss was, 14 killed in battle, and 38 by the explosion—32 wounded in battle, and 222 by the explosion; total, killed and wounded, 306.

FURTHER ACCOUNT.

Extract of a letter from Maj. General Henry Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Niagara, May 3d.

As nearly as I have been able to ascertain, the loss of the enemy, in the late affair of York, amounted to 100 killed, 200 prisoners, and 300 wounded. I have not been able to ascertain, precisely, the amount of militia put on their parole; I presume it could not be less than 500,—There was an immense depot of naval and military stores. York was a magazine for Niagara, Detroit, &c. and, notwithstanding the immense amount which was destroyed by them, we found more than we could bring off. Gen. Sheaffe's baggage and papers fell into my hands. The papers are a valuable acquisition.—A SCALP was found in the Executive and Legislative Council Chamber, suspended near the speaker's chair, in company with the mace.

H. DEARBORN.

AMERICAN PROTECTION.

Head-Quarters, Baltimore, 8th May. 1813.

SIR—It becomes my duty to represent to your excellency, that a citizen of the U. States, and an inhabitant of Havre-de-Grace for the last fifteen years, named O'Neale, has been recently taken in arms, and in defence of his property and family, at that place, by a detachment from his B. M. fleet, serving under your command; and that the said O'Neale has been menaced with immediate and capital punishment, as a traitor to the government of his B. M. on the ground of his being, by birth, an Irishman. Nothing, in the course of public duty, would be more painful to me, than the obligation of resorting to the law of retaliation on this, or any other occasion; but, Sir, in the event of O'Neale's execution, painful as may be the duty, it becomes unavoidable: and I am authorized and commanded to state to your excellency, that two British subjects shall be selected, by lot or otherwise, and immediately executed.

It is for your excellency to choose, whether a character of such barbarism be, or be not given to the war, waged under your immediate direction.

I am, &c.

HENRY MILLER, *Brig. Gen.*

His Ex. J. B. Warren.

ANSWER.

H. M. S. San Domingo, May 10, 1813.

SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 8th inst. respecting a man named O'Neale, taken by a detachment from the squadron, under the orders of Rear Admiral Cockburn. This man has been released, upon the application of the magistrates of Havre-de-Grace, on parole. I was not informed of this man being an Irishman, or he would certainly have been detained, to account to his sovereign and country, for being in arms against the British colors. I am, &c.

J. B. WARREN.

GEN. HARRISON's ARMY.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Harrison, to the Secretary of War, dated Head-Quarters, Camp Meigs, 9th May, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that the enemy, having been several days making preparations for raising the siege of this post, accomplished this day the removal of their artillery, from the opposite bank, and about 12 o'clock left their encampment below, were soon embarked, and out of sight.—I have the honor to enclose you an agreement between Gen. Proctor and myself, for the discharge of the prisoners of the Kentucky militia, in his possession, and for the exchange of the officers and men of the regular troops, which were respectively possessed by us. My anxiety to get the Kentucky troops released, as early as possible, induced me to agree to the dismission of all the prisoners I had, although there was not as many of ours, in Gen. Proctor's possession; the surplussage is to be accounted for, and an equal number of ours released from their parole, whenever the government may think proper to direct it.

The two actions on this side the river, on the 5th, were infinitely more important, and more honorable to our arms, than I had at first conceived. In the sortie made upon the left flank, Capt. Waring's company of the 19th regiment, a detachment of 12 months volunteers, under Major Alexander, and three companies of Kentucky militia, under Col. Boswell, defeated, at least, double the number of Indians and British militia. The sortie on the right was still more glorious. The British batteries, in that direction, were defended by the grenadier and light infantry companies, of the 41st regiment, amounting to 200 effectives, and two companies of militia, flanked by a host of Indians. The detachment sent to attack these, consisted of all the men off duty, belonging to the companies of Croghan and Bradford, of the 17th regiment, Langham, Elliott's, (late Graham's,) and Waring's, of the 19th, about 80 of Major Alexander's volunteers, and a single company of Kentucky militia, under Captain Sebry, amounting, in the whole, to not more than 340. Yet the event of the

action was not a moment doubtful; and, had not the British troops been covered in their retreat, by their *allies*, the whole of them would have been taken.

It is not possible for troops to behave better than our's did, throughout; all the officers exerted themselves to execute my orders, and the enemy, who had a full view of our operations, from the opposite shore, declared that they had never seen so much work done, in so short a time.

To all the commandants of corps, I feel particular obligations; these were Col. Miller, of the 19th infantry, Col. Mills, of the Ohio militia, Major Stoddart, of the artillery, Major Ball, of the dragoons, and Major Johnson, of the Kentucky militia.

Captain Gratiot, of the engineers, having been, for a long time, much indisposed, the task of fortifying this post devolved on Captain Wood; it could not have been placed in better hands. Permit me to recommend him to the President, and to assure you that any mark of his approbation, bestowed on Captain Wood, would be highly gratifying to the whole of the troops, who witnessed his arduous exertions.

From Major Hukill, my aid-de-camp Major Graham, Lieutenant O'Fallon, and my volunteer aid-de-camp John Johnson, Esq. I received the most useful assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded, during the siege, and in the two sorties; those of the latter were much greater than I had at first expected.

Want of sleep, and the exposures to the continued rains which have fallen almost every day, for some time past, renders me incapable of mentioning many interesting particulars; amongst others, a most extraordinary proposition of Gen. Proctor's, on the subject of the Indians, within our boundary; this shall form the subject of a communication, to be made to-morrow or next day, and for which I will provide a safer conveyance than that which carries this.

All the prisoners and deserters agree in saying, that the information given to Major Stoddard, by Ryland, of

the British having launched a sloop of war, this spring, is incorrect; the most of them say, that the one now building will not be launched for many weeks.

I am, &c.

W. H. HARRISON.

Hon. J. Armstrong.

In the seiege, and the several sorties of the 5th instant, there was 81 killed, and 189 wounded—total, killed and wounded. 270.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a Dispatch, from Maj. General William H. Harrison, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, Lower Sandusky,
May 13, 1813.

SIR—Having ascertained that the enemy (Indians as well as British,) had entirely abandoned the neighborhood of the Rapids, I left the command of Camp Meigs with General Clay, and came here last night. It is with the greatest satisfaction I inform you, Sir, that I have every reason to believe that the loss of the Kentucky troops, in killed, on the north side of the river, does not exceed fifty. On the 10th and 11th inst. I caused the ground, which was the scene of action, and its environs, to be carefully examined; and, after the most diligent search, 45 bodies only, of our men, were discovered; amongst them was the leader of the detachment, Col. Dudley. No other officer of note fell in the action. I have strong reason to believe, that a considerable number of Kentuckians effected their retreat up the river, to fort Winchester. General Proctor did not furnish me with a return of the prisoners in his possession, although repeatedly promised.

His retreat was as precipitate as it could properly be, leaving a number of cannon-balls, a new elegant sling-carriage, for cannon, and other valuable articles. The night before his departure, two persons that were employed in the British gun-boats, (Americans by birth) desert-

ed to us—the information they gave me was very interesting; they say that the Indians, 1600, or 2000, left the British, the day before their departure, in a high state of dissatisfaction, from the great loss which they had sustained in the several engagements of the 5th, and the failure of the British, in accomplishing their promise, of taking the post at the Rapids. From the account given by these men, my opinion is confirmed of the great superiority of the enemy, which were defeated by our troops in the two sallies, made on the 5th instant. That, led by Col. Miller, did not exceed 350 men; and it is very certain that they defeated 200 British regulars, 150 militia men, and 4 or 500 Indians. That American regulars, (although they were raw recruits,) and such men as compose the Pittsburgh, Penn. and Petersburgh, Va. volunteers, should behave well, is not to be wondered at; but, that a company of militia should mantain its ground, against four times its numbers, as did Captain Sebre's, of the Kentucky, is truly astonishing. These brave fellows were at length, however, entirely surrounded by Indians, and would have been entirely cut off, but for the gallantry of Lieut. Gwynne, of the 19th regiment, who, with a part of Captain Elliott's company, charged the enemy, and released the Kentuckians.—You will receive, herewith, a monthly return of the troops, at Camp Meigs, for the last month; the communication with the other posts being cut off, the returns were not received. A copy of Gen. Clay's report to me, of the manner of his executing my order, for the attack on the enemy's batteries, is likewise forwarded, by which it will be seen that my intentions were perfectly understood; and the great facility with which they might have been executed, is apparent to every individual who witnessed the scene; indeed, the cannon might have been spiked, the carriages cut to pieces, the magazine destroyed, and the retreat effected to the boats, without the loss of a man, as none were killed in taking the batteries—so complete was the surprize.

An extensive open plain intervenes, between the river and the hill, upon which the batteries of the enemy were placed; this plain was raked by 4 of our 18 pounders, a

12, and a 6; the enemy, even before their guns were spiked, could not have brought one to bear upon it. So perfectly secured was their retreat, that 150 men, who came off, effected it without loss, and brought off some of the wounded, one of them upon the backs of his comrades. The Indians followed them to the woods, but dared not enter into the plain.

I am unable to form a correct estimate of the enemy's force. The prisoners varied much in their accounts; those who made them least, stated the regulars at 550, and the militia at 800; but the number of Indians were beyond comparison greater than have ever been brought into the field before; numbers arrived after the siege commenced. I have caused their camps, on the S. E. side of the river, to be particularly examined, and the general opinion is, that there could not have been fewer on that side, than 10 or 1200—they were, indeed the efficient force of the enemy.

I am sorry to inform you, that Major Stoddard died the night before I left the Rapids, of a lock-jaw, produced by a slight wound, from a fragment of a shell, which struck him on the thigh; several have died in this way, from their great and unavoidable exposure to the cold; but, perhaps, there were never so many instances of desperate wounds being likely to do well. The gallant Captain Bradford will recover.

I shall go from here to Upper Sandusky, and shall take my station at Delaware, or Franklinton, until the troops are assembled. Gen. Clay, who commands at the Rapids, is a man of capacity, and entirely to be relied upon.

I have the honor, &c. WM. H. HARRISON.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

GENERAL CLAY'S REPORT.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Clay to Gen. Harrison.

Camp at Fort Meigs, May —, 1813.

SIR—On the 5th instant, about 8 o'clock, A. M, descending the Miami of the lake, about midway of the Ra-

pids, with 1200 of the Kentucky troops, in eighteen flat bottomed boats, I was met by Capt. Hamilton, and a subaltern, who delivered me (as he said) the orders of Maj. Gen. Harrison, to the following effect:

"You must detach about 800 men from your brigade, who will land at a point I will show, about one, or one and a half miles above the fort, and I will conduct them to the British batteries, on the left bank of the river—they must take possession of the enemy's cannon, spike them, cut down the carriages, and return to their boats," observing that the British force, at their large batteries, was inconsiderable; but that their main force was at the old garrison, about one and a half miles below, on the same side of the river—"the balance of the men, under your command, must land on the right bank, opposite the first landing, and will fight their way, through the Indians, to the fort"—observing that the route, thus to be taken, would be shown by a subaltern officer there, in company with Captain Hamilton, who would land the perouge at the point on the right bank, at which the boats would land.

The order of descending the river in boats, was the same as the order of march, in line of battle, in solid column, each officer taking position according to his rank. Col. Dudley, the eldest Colonel, led the van, and in this order, the river had been descended. As soon as Captain Hamilton had delivered these orders, being in the thirteenth boat from the front, I directed him to proceed immediately to Col. Dudley, and order him to take the men in the 12 front boats, and execute Gen. Harrison's orders, on the left bank of the river; and post his (Capt. Hamilton's) subaltern on the right bank, to conduct myself, with the men in the six rear boats, to the fort. I ordered the five boats in the rear to fall in a line, and follow me. High winds, and the rapidity of the current, drove four of the rear boats ashore, in the attempt to follow on according to order, where they remained a short time; sufficient, however, to detain them one half, or three fourths of a mile in the rear.—To land, according to order, I kept close along the right bank, until opposite Col. Dudley's

landing: there I found no guide left, to conduct me to the fort, as Captain Hamilton had promised. I then made an attempt to cross the river, and join Col. Dudley; but, from the rapid current on the falls, I was unable to land on the point with him. Being nearly half way across the river, and the waves running too high to risque the boat, then driven down the current sidewise, veered about, and rowed the best way we could, to save the boats. My attempt to cross the river, to Col. Dudley, occasioned all the boats, (I presume in the rear of me,) and which were then out of hailing distance, to cross over, and land with Col. Dudley. Having been defeated in a landing on the left, we then endeavored to effect one on the right, even without a guide; but, before a landing could be effected, we received a brisk fire from the enemy on shore, which was returned, and kept up on both sides; and I was, in this unavoidable situation, compelled to make to Fort Meigs, with no other force than about 50 men on board, (the other boats being still in the rear) and to receive the enemy's fire, until we arrived under the protection of the fort. Col. Boswell's command (except the men in my boat,) having landed, to join Col. Dudley, were, as I have been informed, ordered, by Captain Hamilton, immediately to embark, and land on the right hand shore, about a mile above the fort, and prepare to fight his way through to the garrison. The Colonel embarked, landed, as he conceived, at the proper point, pursuant to Captain Hamilton's order, and was forming his men in order of battle, when he was met by Captain Shaw, and ordered to march into the garrison, at open order, the safest route.

When my own boat landed, we were met by two men, who took charge of the boat, as we understood, to bring her under the protection of the fort batteries; believing our baggage to be thus made safe, we forbid our servants to carry any portion of it; but loaded them with cannon-balls, which they bore to the fort. Our baggage was, however, taken by the Indians, in a very short time after we left the boat. In receiving the orders of Capt. Hamilton, I asked if he had brought spikes, to spike the enemy's cannon? to which he replied, that he had plenty.

Captain Hamilton, on delivering the orders of General Harrison, observed, that the object of landing, and marching a portion of the troops on the right bank, was to draw the attention of the Indians; and, by thus engaging them, afford an opportunity to the garrison to make a sally; and, by a circuitous route, surprize and carry the batteries, and cannon of the enemy, below the fort, on the right bank.

I am, respectfully, &c.

GREEN CLAY, *Brig. Gen.*

His Ex. Maj. Gen. Harrison.

(A true Copy)

G. CROGHAN, A. D. C.

TAKING OF FORT GEORGE.

Copies of letters from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship Madison,
Niagara River, 27th May, 1813.

SIR—I am happy to have it in my power to say, that the American flag is flying upon fort George. We were in quiet possession of all the forts at 12 o'clock.

I have the honor, &c.

I. CHAUNCEY.

U. S. S. Madison, 28th May, 1813.

SIR—Agreeably to arrangements, which I have already had the honor of detailing to you, I left Sacket's Harbor, with this ship, on the 22d inst. with about 350 of Col. M'Comb's regiment on board; the winds being light from the westward, I did not arrive in the vicinity of Niagara, before the 25th; the other parts of the squadron had arrived, several days before, and landed their troops. The Fair American, and Pert, I had ordered to Sacket's Harbor, for the purpose of watching the enemy's movements at Kingston. I immediately had an interview with Gen. Dearborn, for the purpose of making arrangements to attack the enemy, as soon as

possible; and it was agreed, between him and myself, to make the attack the moment that the weather was such as to allow the vessels and boats to approach the shore with safety. On the 26th, I reconnoitered the position for landing the troops, and at night sounded the shore, and placed buoys to sound out the stations for the small vessels. It was agreed, between the General and myself, to make the attack the next morning, (as the weather had moderated, and had every appearance of being favorable.) I took on board of the Madison, Oneida, and Lady of the Lake, all the heavy artillery, and as many troops as could be stowed; the remainder were to embark in boats, and follow the fleet. At 3, yesterday morning, the signal was made for the fleet to weigh, and the troops were all embarked on board the boats before 4, and soon after Gens. Dearborn and Lewis came on board this ship, with their suites. It being, however, nearly calm, the schooners were obliged to sweep into their positions. Mr. Trant, in the Julia, and Mr. Mix, in the Growler, I directed to take a position in the mouth of a river, and silence a battery, near the light-house, which, from its position, commanded the shore where our troops were to land. Mr. Stevens, in the Ontario, was directed to take a position to the north of the light-house, so near in shore as to enfilade the battery, and cross the fire of the Julia and Growler. Lieutenant Brown, in the Governor Tompkins, I directed to take a position near to Two Mile Creek, where the enemy had a battery, with a heavy gun. Lieutenant Pettigrew, in the Conquest, was directed to anchor to the S. E. of the same battery, so near in, as to open on it in the rear, and cross the fire of the Governor Tompkins. Lieutenant M'Pherson, in the Hamilton, Lieut. Smith, in the Asp, and Mr. Osgood, in the Scourge, were directed to anchor close to the shore, and cover the landing of the troops; and to scour the woods and plain, whenever the enemy made his appearance. All these orders were most promptly and gallantly executed; all the vessels anchored within musquet-shot of the shore, and in ten

minutes after they opened the batteries, they were completely silenced and abandoned. Our troops then advanced in three brigades, the advance led by Colonel Scott, and landed near the fort, which had been silenced by Lieut. Brown.

The enemy, who had been concealed by a ravine, now advanced, in great force, to the edge of the bank, to charge our troops; the schooners opened such a well-directed and tremendous fire of grape and canister, that the enemy soon retreated from the bank. Our troops formed as soon as they landed, and immediately ascended the bank—charged, and routed the enemy in every direction, the schooners keeping up a constant and well-directed fire upon him, in his retreat to the town. Owing to the wind having sprung up very fresh from the eastward, which caused a heavy sea, directly on shore, I was not able to get the boats off, to land the troops from the Madison and Oneida, before the first and second brigades had advanced. Captain Smith, with the marines, landed with Col. M'Comb's regiment, and I had prepared 400 seamen, which I intended to land with myself, if the enemy had made a stand; but our troops pursued him so rapidly into the town, and fort George, that I found there was no necessity for more force; moreover, the wind had increased so much, and hove such a sea on shore, that the situation of the fleet had become dangerous and critical. I, therefore, made signal for the fleet to weigh, and ordered them into the river, where they anchored, immediately after the enemy had abandoned fort George. The town and forts, were in quiet possession of our troops at 12 o'clock, and the enemy retreated in a direction towards Queenstown.

Where all behaved so well, it is difficult to select any one for commendation; yet, in doing justice to Lieut. Macpherson, I do not detract from the merits of others. He was fortunate in placing himself in a situation, where he rendered very important service, in covering the troops so completely, that their loss was trifling. Captain Perry joined me, from Erie, on the

evening of the 25th, and very gallantly volunteered his services; and I have much pleasure in acknowledging the great assistance which I received from him, in arranging and superintending the debarkation of the troops; he was present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musquetry; but, fortunately, escaped unhurt. We lost but one killed, and two wounded, and no injury done to the vessels.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

FURTHER REPORT.

Copies of letters from Maj. General Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, Fort George,
U. Canada, May 27, 1813.

SIR—The light troops, under the command of Col. Scott and Maj. Forsyth, landed this morning, at nine o'clock. Maj. Gen. Lewis' division, with Col. Porter's command of light artillery, supported them. Gen. Boyd's brigade landed immediately after the light troops, and Generals Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession. The landing was warmly and obstinately disputed by the British forces; but the coolness and intrepidity of our troops, soon compelled them to give ground in every direction.

General Chandler, with the reserve, (composed of his brigade, and Col. M'Comb's artillery) covered the whole.—Com. Chauncey had made the most judicious arrangements for silencing the enemy's batteries, near the point of landing. The army is under the greatest obligations to that able naval commander, for his co-operation in all its important movements, and especially in its operations this day. Our batteries succeeded in rendering fort George untenable; and, when the enemy had been beaten from his positions, and found it necessary to re-enter it, after firing a few guns, and setting fire to the magazines, which soon exploded, he moved

off rapidly by different routes; our light troops pursued them several miles. The troops having been under arms, from one o'clock in the morning, were too much exhausted for any further pursuit. We are now in possession of fort George, and its immediate dependencies; to-morrow we shall proceed further on. The behaviour of our troops, both officers and men, entitle them to the highest praise; and the difference in our loss, with that of the enemy, when we consider the advantages his position afforded him, is astonishing:—we had 17 killed, and 45 wounded—the enemy had 90 killed, and 160 wounded, of the regular troops. We have taken 100 prisoners, exclusive of the wounded. Col. Meyers, of the 49th, was wounded and taken prisoner; of ours, only one commissioned officer was killed—Lieut. Hobart, of the light artillery. Enclosed is the report of Major-General Lewis.

I have the honor, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. Gen. J. Armstrong.

GEN. LEWIS' REPORT.

On the Field, 1 *o'clock*, 27th May, 1813.

DEAR SIR—Fort George and its dependencies are ours; the enemy, beaten at all points, has blown up his magazines, and retired. It is impossible, at this time, to say any thing of individual gallantry; there was no man who did not perform his duty in a manner which did honor to himself and country. Scott's and Forsyth's commands, supported by Boyd's and Winder's brigades, sustained the brunt of the action. Our loss is trifling; not more than 20 killed, and twice that number wounded. The enemy has left in the hospital 124, and I sent several on board of the fleet. We have also made about 100 prisoners of the regular forces.

I am, &c.

MORGAN LEWIS.

Maj. Gen. *Dearborn.*

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Head-Quarters, Fort George, May 29th, 1813.

SIR—Gen. Lewis was ordered to march yesterday morning, with Chandler's and Winder's brigades, the light artillery, dragoons, and riflemen, in pursuit of the enemy, by way of Queenstown. I had received satisfactory information that the enemy had made a stand on the mountain, at a place called the Beaver-dam, where he had a deposit of provisions and stores; and that he had been joined by 300 regulars, from Kingston, landed from some small vessels, near the head of the lake.

I had ascertained that he was calling in the militia, and had presumed he would confide in the strength of his position, and venture an action, by which an opportunity would be afforded, to cut off his retreat. I have been disappointed. Although the troops, from fort Erie and Chippewa, had joined the main body, at Beaver-dam, he broke up yesterday, precipitately, continued his route along the mountains, and will reach the head of the lake by that route.

Lieut. Col. Preston took possession of fort Erie, and its dependencies, last evening; the post had been abandoned, and the magazine blown up.

I have ordered Gen. Lewis to return, without delay, to this place; and, if the winds favor us, we may yet cut off the enemy's retreat. I was, last evening, honored with your dispatch of the 15th inst. I have taken measures in relation to the 23 prisoners, who are to be put in close confinement.

I have the honor, &c. H. DEARBORN.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. of War.

DEFENCE OF SACKET'S HARBOR.

Extract of a letter from Brig. Gen. Jacob Brown, to his Ex. Gov. Tompkins, dated

Sacket's Harbor, May 29, 1813.

WE were attacked at the dawn of this day, by a British regular force, of at least 900 men, (and most pro-

bably 1200 ;) they made good their landing at Horse-Island. The enemy's fleet consisted of two ships, 4 schooners, and 30 large open boats. We are completely victorious ; the enemy lost a considerable number in killed and wounded, on the field ; among the number, several officers of distinction. After having re-embarked, they sent me a flag, desiring to have their killed and wounded attended to : I made them satisfied on that subject—Americans will be distinguished for humanity and bravery. Our loss is not numerous, but serious, from the great worth of those who have fallen. Col. Mills was shot dead at the commencement of the action ; and Col. Backus, of the light dragoons, nobly fell at the head of his regiment, as victory was declaring for us. I will not presume to praise this regiment ;—much gallant conduct on this day, deserves more than praise. The new ship, and Com. Chauncey's prize, the Duke of Gloucester, are yet safe in Sacket's Harbor. Sir George Prevost landed, and commanded in person. Sir James L. Yeo commanded the enemy's fleet.

In haste—Yours, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

FURTHER ACCOUNT.

Extract of a letter from Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

Sacket's Harbor, June 1, 1813.

SIR—In the course of the 28th, and during the 28th and 29th ult. a considerable militia force came in, and were ordered to the water-side, near Horse-Island, on which was Lieut. Col. Mills, and his volunteers. Our strength, at this point, was now 500 men, all anxious for battle, as far as profession would go.

The moment it was light enough to discover the approach of the enemy, we found his ships in line, between Horse-Island and Stoney-point, and, in a few minutes afterwards, 33 large boats, filled with troops, came off to the larger Indian or Garden-Island, under cover of the fire of his gun-boats.

My orders were, that the troops should lie close, and reserve their fire, until the enemy had approached so near that every shot might hit its object. It is, however, impossible to execute such orders with raw troops, unaccustomed to subordination. My orders were, in this case, disobeyed; the whole line fired, and not without effect; but, in the moment while I was contemplating this, to my utter astonishment, *they rose from their cover and fled.* Col. Mills fell gallantly, in brave, but in vain endeavors to stop his men. I was, personally, more fortunate:—gathering together about 100 militia, under the immediate command of Capt. M'Nitt, of that corps, we threw ourselves on the rear of the enemy's left flank, and, I trust, did some execution;—it was during this last movement that the regulars, under the command of Col. Backus, first engaged the enemy; nor was it long before they defeated him. Hurrying to this point of action, I found the battle still raging, but with obvious advantage on our side. The result of the action, so glorious for the officers and soldiers of the regular army, has already been communicated, in my letter of the 29th. Had not Gen. Prevost retreated, most rapidly, under the guns of his vessels, he would never have returned to Kingston.

One thing, in this business, is to be seriously regretted; in the midst of the conflict, fire was ordered to be set to the navy barracks, and stores. This was owing to the infamous conduct of those who brought information to Lieut. Chauncey, that the battle was lost; and that, to prevent the stores from falling into the enemy's hands, they must be destroyed. The enemy's force consisted of 1000 picked men, led by Sir George Prevost, in person; their fleet consisted of the new ship Wolf, the Royal George, Prince Regent, Earl Moira, 2 armed schooners, and their gun and other boats. Of the officers who distinguished themselves, I cannot but repeat the name of Lieut. Col. Backus, who, praised be God! yet lives. Captain M'Nitt's conduct was noble; he well deserves to be placed in the regular army. Major Swan, of the army, served as my

Adjutant-General, and was highly useful. Lieutenant Chauncey is a brave and honorable man; to him no blame can attach, for what happened at Navy-point; he was deceived. Lieut Col. Tuttle was in march for this post; but, with every exertiou, was unable to reach it, in time to take part in the action; this is felt, by the Colonel, and every officer of his detachment, as a misfortune. At the moment I am closing this communication, Commodore Chauncey has arrived with his squadron; this renders my longer stay here unnecessary; I shall, therefore, immediately return to my home.

I have the honor, &c.

J. BROWN.

Our loss, in the above action was 154, killed, wounded and missing. The enemy's loss, according to his own account, in killed and wounded, was 150.

ROYAL PROPERTY CAPTURED.

Copy of a letter from Com. Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. S. Madison, Sacket's Harbor, 4th June, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to present to you, by the hands of Lieut. Dudley, the British standard, taken at York, on the 27th of April last, accompanied by the mace, over which was hung a *human scalp!* These articles were taken from the Parliament-house, by one of my officers, and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to General Dearborn, who, I believe, still has it in his possession. I also send, by the same gentleman, one of the British flags, taken at fort George, on the 27th of May.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. of the Navy.

NOTE BY THE PUBLISHER.

About this time we lost the armed schooners Growler and Eagle, on Lake Champlain.

GENs. CHANDLER AND WINDER TAKEN.

Copy of a letter from Maj. General Henry Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, Fort George, June 6th, 1813.

SIR—I have received an express from the head of the lake, this evening, with intelligence that our troops, commanded by Brig. Gen. Chandler, were attacked, at 2 o'clock this morning, by the whole of the British and Indian forces—and by some fatality; (though our loss did not exceed 30,) and the enemy completely routed, and driven from the field—both Generals Chandler and Winder, were taken prisoners: they had advanced to ascertain the situation of a company of artillery, when the attack commenced. General Vincent is reported to be among the killed of the enemy. Colonel Clark was mortally wounded, and fell into our hands, with 60 prisoners of the 49th British regiment. The whole loss of the enemy is 250; they sent in a flag, with a request to bury their dead. Gen Lewis, accompanied by Gen. Boyd, goes on to take the command of the advanced troops.

I have the honor, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. Gen. *J. Armstrong.*

HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Henry Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, June 8th, 1813.

SIR—I hasten to state to you, that the whole of our officers and men discovered, in the action of the 27th ult. that readiness and ardor for action, which evinced a determination to do honor to themselves, and their country. The animating examples, set by Gen. Boyd and Col. Scott, deserve particular mention. I am greatly indebted to Col. Porter, of the light artillery; to

Major Armistead, of the 3d regt. artillery; and to Lieut. Totten, of the engineer corps, for their judicious and skillful execution, in demolishing the enemy's fort and batteries. The officers of the artillery, who had the direction of the guns, generally, are very deserving.

I have the honor, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. J. Armstrong.

Our loss, in the above action, was 150, in killed and wounded. The enemy's loss, in killed, wounded, and taken, was 893.

FURTHER, OF CHANDLER AND WINDER.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Lewis, to the Secretary of War, dated

Niagara, June 14, 1813.

SIR—You will perceive, by the enclosed copy of orders, marked I. that Gen. Dearborn, from indisposition, has resigned his command, not only of the Niagara army, but of the district. I have doubts whether he will ever again, be fit for service. He has been repeatedly in a state of convalescence, but relapses on the least agitation of mind.

In my last, I mentioned the unfortunate circumstances of the capture of our two Brigadiers, Chandler and Winder; the particulars are detailed in the report of Col. Burn, which he gives from the best information he could collect: his corps lay a considerable distance from the scene of active operation, as you will perceive by the enclosed diagram, which is on a scale of 100 yards to the inch. The light corps, spoken of, were Captains Hindman's, Biddle's, and Nicholas' companies, of the 2d artillery, serving as infantry. These three gentlemen, and Capts. Archer and Towson, of the same regiment, and Leonard of the light artillery, are soldiers, who would honor any service; their gallantry, and that of their companions, was equally conspicuous, on this occasion, as in the affair of the 27th ult. A view of Gen. Chandler's encampment will be sufficient to

show, that his disaster was owing to its arrangement—its centre being its weakest point, and that being discovered by the enemy, in the evening, received the combined attack of his whole force, and his line was completely cut. The gallantry of the 5th, 25th, and part of the 23d, and light troops, saved the army. Of the 5th, it is said, that, when the day broke, not a man was missing; and, that a part of the 23d, under Major Armstrong, was found sustaining its left flank; their fire was irresistible, and the enemy was compelled to give way. Could he have been pressed the next morning, his destruction was inevitable; he was dispersed in every direction; and even his commanding general was missing, without his hat or horse. I understand he was found the next morning, at a distance of four miles from the scene of action.

Lieut. M'Chesney's gallantry recovered a piece of artillery, and prevented the capture of others;—he merits promotion for it.

On the evening of the 6th of June, I received the order, No. 4, and joined the army at 5 in the afternoon of the 7th. I found it at the Forty Mile Creek, 10 miles in the rear of the ground on which it had been attacked, encamped on a plain, of about a mile in width, with its right flank on the lake, and its left on a creek, which skirts a perpendicular mountain, of a considerable heighth.—On my route, I received Nos. 5 and 6, enclosed.

At 6 in the evening, the hostile fleet hove in sight, though its character could not be ascertained with precision. We lay on our arms all night—at dawn of day, struck our tents, and descried the hostile squadron abreast of us, about a mile from the shore. Our boats, which transported the principal part of our baggage, and camp equipage, lay on the beach—it was a dead calm; and, about 6, the enemy towed in a large schooner, which opened her fire on our boats. As soon as she stood for the shore, her object being evident, I ordered down Archer's and Towson's companies, with four pieces of artillery, to resist her attempts; I, at the same time, sent Capt. Totten, of the engineers, (a most valuable officer,) to construct a temporary furnace, for heating shot; which was

prepared, and in operation, in less than 30 minutes. Her fire was returned with a vivacity and effect, (excelled by no artillery in the universe,) which soon compelled her to retire.

A party of savages now made their appearance, on the brow of the mountain, (which, being perfectly bald, exhibited them to our view,) and commenced a fire on our camp. I ordered Col. Christie to dislodge them, who entered on the service with alacrity—but found himself anticipated by Lieut. Eldridge, the adjutant of his regiment, who, with a promptness and gallantry highly honorable to that young officer, had already gained the summit of the mountain, with a party of volunteers, and routed the barbarian allies of the defender of the Christian faith;—this young man merits the notice of government.

These little affairs cost us not a man. Sir James L. Yeo, being disappointed of a tragedy, next determined, in true dramatic style, to amuse us with a farce:—an officer, with a flag, was sent to me, from his ship, advising me, that, as I was invested with savages in my rear, a fleet in my front, and a powerful army on my flank; he, and the officers commanding his Britannic majesty's land forces, thought it their duty to demand a surrender of my army. I answered, that the message was too ridiculous to merit a reply.

No. 7 was delivered to me, at about 6, this morning.—Between 7 and 8 o'clock, the four waggons we had, being loaded first with the sick, and next with ammunition, &c. the residue of camp equipage and baggage was put in the boats, and a detachment of 200 men, of the 6th regiment, detailed to proceed in them. Orders were prepared, to be given them, to defend the boats; and, if assailed by any of the enemy's small vessels, to carry them by boarding; by some irregularity, which I have not been able to discover, the boats put off without the detachments, induced, probably, by the stillness of the morning. When they had progressed about three miles, a breeze sprung up, and an armed schooner overhauled them:—those who were enterprizing, kept on, and escaped; others ran to the shore, and deserted their boats—we lost 12 of

the number, principally containing the baggage of the officers and men.

At 10, I put our army in motion, on our return to this place; the savages, and incorporated militia, hung on our flanks and rear, throughout the march, and picked up a few stragglers. On our retiring, the British army advanced, and now occupies the ground we left.

The enemy's fleet is constantly hovering on our coast, and interrupting our supplies. The night before last, having been advised that they had chased into Eighteen Mile Creek, two vessels laden with hospital stores, &c. I detached, at midnight, 75 men, for their protection. The report of the day is, though not official, that they arrived too late for their purpose, and that the stores are lost.

I have the honor, &c.

MORGAN LEWIS.

Hon. J. Armstrong.

NUMBER 5—Referred to in the REPORT of GEN. LEWIS—viz.

Niagara, June 6, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL—A ship having appeared this morning, steering towards the head of the lake, which is undoubtedly one of the enemy's ships; and, as others are appearing, you will please to return with the troops, to this place, as soon as possible.

Yours, with esteem,

H. DEARBORN.

P. S. The object of the enemy's fleet must be, either to cover the retreat of their troops, or to bring on a reinforcement. H. D.

Maj. Gen. Lewis.

In the action of the 6th of June, at Stoney Creek, there was 17 killed, 38 wounded, and 50 missing—making a total of 105, killed wounded, and missing.

UTILITY OF THE GUN-BOATS.

Copy of a letter from Commodore John Cassin, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Navy Yard, Gosport, June 21, 1813.

SIR—On Saturday, at 11, P. M. Captain Tarbell moved with the flotilla, under his command, consisting of 15 gun-boats, in two divisions—Lieut. J. M. Gardner, 1st division, and Lieut. Robert Henley, the 2d, manned from the frigate; and 50 musqueteers, which General Taylor ordered from Craney Island—and proceeded down the river; but adverse winds, and squalls, prevented his approaching the enemy, until Sunday morning, at 4, P. M. when the flotilla commenced a heavy, galling fire on a frigate, at about three-fourths of a mile distance, laying well up the roads—two other frigates lying in sight. At half past 4, a breeze sprung up, from E. N. E. which enabled the two frigates to get under way, one a razee, or very heavy ship, and the other a frigate, to come nearer in action. The boats, in consequence of their approach, hauled off, though keeping up a well directed fire on the razee and other ship, which gave us several broadsides. The frigate, first engaged, (supposed to be the Junon,) was certainly very severely handled; had the calm continued, one half hour, that frigate must have fallen into our hands, or been destroyed: she must have slipped her mooring, so as to drop nearer the razee, who had all her sails set, coming up to her, with the other frigate; the action continued one hour and a half, with the three ships. Shortly after the action, the razee got along side of the ship, and had her upon a deep careen, in a little time, with a number of boats and stages around her; I am satisfied that much damage was done to her; for she was silenced some time, until the razee opened her fire, when she commenced again. Our loss is very trifling: Mr. Allison, master's mate, on board No. 139, was killed early in the action, by an 18lb. ball, which passed through him, and lodged in the mast. No. 154, had a shot between wind and water. No. 67, had her Franklin shot away; and several of them had some of their sweeps, as well as their

stantions shot away; but two men slightly injured, by the splinters, from the sweeps. On the flood tide, several ships of the line, and frigates, came into the roads, and we expected an attack last night. There is now in the Roads, 13 ships of the line and frigates, one brig, and several tenders. I cannot say too much for the officers and crew, on this occasion; for every man appeared to go into action with so much cheerfulness, apparently, to do their duty, resolved to conquer. I had a better opportunity of discovering their actions, than any one else, being in my boat the whole of the action.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN CASSIN.

Hon Sec. Navy.

Thirty prisoners, who were taken 2 days after the above action, and who were separately examined, state that the loss on board the Junon, in killed and wounded, was about 60—her Captain killed; and that the Junon received between 70 and 100 shots in her hull.

THE CHESAPEAKE TAKEN.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Budd, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated Halifax, June, 15, 1813.

SIR—The unfortunate death of Capt. James Lawrence, and Lieut. Augustus C. Ludlow, has rendered it my duty to inform you of the capture of the late U. States frigate Chesapeake.

On Tuesday, June 1st, at 8, A. M. we unmoored ship, and at meridian got under way, from President Roads, with a light wind from the southward and westward, and proceeded on a cruise. A ship was then in sight, in the offing, which had the appearance of a ship of war; and which, from information received from pilots, we believed to be the British frigate Shannon. We made sail in chase, and cleared ship for action. At half past 4, P. M. she hove too, with her head to the southward and eastward—at 5, P. M. took in the royal and top-gallant sails; and at

half past 5, hauled the courses up. About 15 minutes before 6, the action commenced, within pistol-shot. The first broadside did great execution on both sides; damaged our rigging; killed, among others, Mr. White, the sailing-master; and wounded Capt. Lawrence. In about 12 minutes, after the commencement of the action, we fell on board the enemy; and immediately after, one of our armed chests, on the quarter-deck, was blown up, by a hand grenade, thrown from the enemy's ship. In a few minutes, one of the Captain's aids came on the gun-deck, to inform me that the boarders were called. I immediately called the boarders away, and proceeded to the spar-deck, where I found that the enemy had succeeded in boarding us, and had gained possession of our quarter-deck. I immediately gave orders to haul on board the fore-tack, for the purpose of shorting the ship clear of the other, and then made an attempt to regain the quarter-deck, but was wounded, and thrown down on the girt-deck. I again made an effort to collect the boarders; but, in the meantime, the enemy had gained complete possession of the ship. On my being carried down to the cock-pit, I there found Capt. Lawrence, and Lieut. Ludlow, mortally wounded; the former had been carried below, previously to the ship's being boarded—the latter was wounded in attempting to repel the boarders. Among those who fell, early in the action, was Mr. Ed. J. Ballard, 4th Lieutenant, and Lieut. James Broome, of Marines. I herein enclose, to you, a return of the killed and wounded; by which you will perceive, that every officer, upon whom the charge of the ship would devolve, was either killed or wounded, previously to her capture. The enemy report the loss of Mr. Watt, their 1st Lieutenant, the Purser, the Captain's Clerk, and 23 seamen, killed; Captain Broke, a Midshipman, and 56 seamen wounded.

The Shannon had, in addition to her full complement, an officer, and 16 men, belonging to the Belle Poule, and a part of the crew belonging to the Tenedos.

I have the honor, &c. GEO. BUDD.

Hon. W. Jones. Sec. Navy.

In this action, we had 49 killed—97 wounded—total 146.

AFFAIR ON LAKE ONTARIO.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Chauncey, to Commodore Chauncey.

Sacket's Harbor, 18th June, 1813.

SIR—According to your orders of the 14th inst. I proceeded off Presque-Isle, in the schooner "Lady of the Lake." On the morning of the 16th, fell in with, and captured the English schooner, Lady Murray, from Kingston, bound to York with provisions and ammunition. Enclosed is a list of 1 Ensign, 15 non-commissioned officers, and privates, found on board, with 6 men, attached to the vessel.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WOLCOTT CHAUNCEY.

The prize is valued at 20,000 dollars.

COL. BOERSTLER's SURRENDER.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Henry Dearborn, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, Fort George, June 25, 1813.

SIR—I have the mortification of informing you of an unfortunate and unaccountable event, which occurred yesterday. On the 23d. at evening, Lieut. Col. Boerstler, with 570 men, (Infantry, artillery, cavalry, and riflemen, in due proportion,) was ordered to march, by way of Queenstown, to a place called the Beaver-Dams, on the high ground, about 8 or 9 miles from Queenstown, to attack and disperse a body of the enemy, collected there for the purpose of procuring provisions, and harassing those inhabitants who are considered friendly to the U. States.

Their force was, from the most direct information, composed of one company of the 104th regiment, above 80 strong; from 150 to 200 militia, and from 50 to 60 Indians. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning, when within about two miles of the Beaver-Dams, our detachment was attacked from an ambuscade, but soon drove the enemy some distance into the woods, and then retired to a clear field, and sent an express for a reinforcement; saying, he

would maintain his position, until reinforced. A reinforcement of 300 men marched immediately, under the command of Col. Chrystie; but, on arriving at Queenstown, Col. Chrystie received authentic information, that Lieut. Col Boerstler, with his command, had surrendered to the enemy, and the reinforcement returned to camp. A man, who belonged to a small corps of mounted volunteer riflemen, came in this morning, who states, that the enemy surrounded our detachment in the woods; and, towards 12 o'clock, commenced a general attack; that our troops fought more than two hours, until the artillery had expended all its ammunition, and then surrendered; and, at the time of the surrender, the informant made his escape.

Why it should have been deemed proper to remain, several hours in a position surrounded with woods, without either risking a decisive action, or effecting a retreat, remains to be accounted for, as well as the project of waiting for a reinforcement, from a distance of 15 miles. No information has been received of the killed or wounded. The enemy's fleet has again arrived in our neighborhood.

I am, &c.

H. DEARBORN.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

CAPTURE OF A BRITISH TENDER.

Copy of a letter from Com. Lewis, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Off Sandy Hook, July 6, 1813.

SIR—I have the pleasure to inform you of the capture of the British sloop tender, (Eagle) which, for some time, had been employed by Com. Beresford, for the purpose of burning the coasters, &c. Her force was 2 officers, and 11 seamen, with a 32 brass howitzer.

This service was performed, in a most gallant and officer like manner, by sailing-master Percival, who, with volunteers from the flotilla, which I have the honor to command, jumped on board a fishing-smack, ran the enemy along side, and carried him by a coup-de-main. I am sorry to add, that, in this little affair, the enemy lost the com-

manding officer, one Midshipman, mortally wounded, and two seamen badly. I am happy to say we suffered no injury, which is to be attributed to the superior management of sailing-master Percival, and the coolness with which his men fired; for which they all deserve well of their country.

J. LEWIS, *Com. U. S. Flotilla.*

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

ESCAPE OF MAJOR CHAPIN.

Copy of a letter from Major Chapin to Gen. Dearborn, dated

Fort George, July 13, 1813.

SIR—I have just returned from my confinement in Canada, without parole. Our return happened in the following manner:—I received orders at Burlington Heights, on Monday morning, to go to Kingston; we set off accordingly, under the care of 16 men; I had, with me, 28 men. We all went on, very quietly, till 4 o'clock in the afternoon; at which time, I gave a signal to attack the guard, which were stationed in the following order: a sergeant, and one man, in the boat with my men; a Lieutenant, and 13 men, in the boat with me and two officers. At the signal, my men ran along side of the boat I was in; Lieut. Showers ordered them to fall astern—I ordered them on board; at which time the officer attempted to draw his sword: I seized him by the neck, and threw him on his back; two of his men drew their bayonets upon me: I immediately seized both bayonets, at the same instant, and threw them on top of the officer—and kept all down together; at the same moment, my men seized the guard, and wrested from them their arms. We then, having possession of the arms, changed our course, and arrived here this morning, all safe. We have brought two boats with us.

I have the honor, &c.

CYRENUS CHAPIN.

Maj. Gen. Dearborn.

A PARTY OF THE ENEMY CAPTURED.

Extract of a letter from Commodore Cassin, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Norfolk, Va. July 15. 1813.

The Plantagenet, 74, has been lying off the light-house some time; they dug wells on shore, and every day employed their boats in watering. Capt. Lawson, commanding a company of militia, from Princess-Ann, went down, under cover of the night, and concealed themselves behind a sand-hill, near the wells. At half past 5, P. M. a boat, full of men, were discovered rowing for the shore: at 6, they landed, and proceeded to the wells, where they received a full fire from the militia, which compelled them to surrender. The enemy's force consisted of 2 Lieuts. 16 seamen, and 8 marines. They had 3 marines killed; 1 Lieut. and 2 seamen wounded, and 2 marines. None of our men were hurt; the barge was destroyed, after taking her guns, and some small arms.

I have the honor, &c.

J. CASSIN.

Hon. Sec. Navy.

PROCEEDINGS ON LAKE ONTARIO.

Extract of a letter from Major-General Lewis, to the Secretary of War, dated

Sackel's Harbor, July 20, 1813.

Our fleet has gone out of the inner harbor, and appearances are in favor of its going to sea, in 48 hours, at farthest.—A little expedition, of volunteers from the country, to which, by the advice of Commodore Chauncey, I lent 40 soldiers, sailed from hence three days since, on board of two small row-boats, with a 6 pounder, each, to the head of the St. Lawrence, where they captured a fine gun-boat, mounting a 24 pounder; 14 batteaux, loaded; 4 officers, and 61 men. Two of our schooners have gone

out, to convoy them in; the prisoners have been landed, and are coming on, under charge of a detachment of dragoons.

I have the honor, &c.

M. LEWIS.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. S. Gen. Pike, at anchor, off Niagara, Aug. 4, 1813.

SIR—After leaving Sacket's Harbor, I stretched over for the enemy's shore, and from thence stood up the lake. The winds being light, I did not arrive off this port until the evening of the 27th ult. On the 24th, I fell in with the Lady of the Lake, on her return to Sacket's Harbor, with prisoners, from fort George. I transferred the prisoners to the Raven, and ordered her to Sacket's Harbor; the Lady of the Lake, I dispatched to fort George for guides, for the head of the lake. Gen. Boyd having informed me, that the enemy had a considerable deposit of provisions and stores at Burlington Bay, I was determined to attempt their destruction. On the 25th, I was joined by the Pert, and on the 27th, by the Lady of the Lake, with guides, and Capt. Crane's company of artillery, and Col. Scott, who had very handsomely volunteered for the service. After conversing with Col. Scott on the subject, it was thought advisable to take on board 250 infantry—which were embarked by 6 o'clock next morning, and the fleet immediately proceeded for the head of the lake; but, owing to light winds, and calms, we did not arrive to an anchorage before the evening of the 29th. We sent two parties on shore, and surprized and took some of the inhabitants; from whom we learned, that the enemy had received considerable reinforcements, within a day or two; and that his force, in regulars, was from 600 to 800 men. We, however, landed the troops and marines, and some sailors, next morning, and reconnoitered the enemy's position—found him posted upon a peninsula of very high

ground, strongly entrenched, and his camp defended by about 8 pieces of cannon. In this situation, it was thought not advisable to attack him, with a force scarcely half his numbers, and without artillery; we were also deficient in boats, not having a sufficient number to cross the bay, with all the troops at the same time. The men were all re-embarked, in the course of the afternoon; and, in the evening, we weighed, and stood for York—arrived, and anchored in that harbor, at about 3, P. M. on the 31st ult.—run the schooners into the upper harbor; landed the marines and soldiers, under the command of Col. Scott, without opposition; found several hundred barrels of flour, and provisions, in the public store-house; five pieces of cannon, eleven boats, and a quantity of shot, shells, and other stores; all which were either destroyed or brought away. On the 1st instant, just after having received on board all that the vessels could take, I directed the barracks, and public stores, to be burnt; we then re-embarked the men, and arrived at this place yesterday. Four or five hundred men left York, for the head of the lake, 2 days before we arrived there. A few prisoners were taken; a part of them were paroled—the others were left at fort George.

I have the honor, &c.

I. CHAUNCEY.

Hon. *Sec. Navy.*

DEFENCE OF LOWER SANDUSKY.

Copy of a letter from Major Croghan, to Gen. Harrison, dated

Lower Sandusky, August 5, 1813.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that the combined force of the enemy, amounting to, at least, 500 regulars, and as many Indians, under the immediate command of Gen. Proctor, made its appearance before this place, early on Sunday evening last; and, so soon as the General had made such disposition of his troops, as would cut off my retreat, (should I be disposed to make one,) he sent Col. Elliot, accompanied by Major Chambers,

with a flag, to demand the surrender of the fort, as he was anxious to spare the effusion of blood; which he should probably not have in his power to do, should he be reduced to the necessity of taking the place by storm. My answer to the summons was, that I was determined to defend the place to the last extremity; and that no force, however large, should induce me to surrender it. So soon as the flag had returned, a brisk fire was opened upon us, from the gun-boats, in the river, and from a five and a half inch howitzer, on shore, which was kept up with little intermission, throughout the night. At an early hour, the next morning, three sixes, (which had been placed, during the night, within 250 yards of the pickets,) began to play upon us—but with little effect. About 4 o'clock, P. M. discovering that the fire, from all his guns, was concentrated against the N. W. angle of the fort, I became confident that his object was to make a breach, and attempt to storm the works at that point: I, therefore, ordered out as many men, as could be employed, for the purpose of strengthening that part—which was so effectually secured, by means of bags of flour, sand, &c. that the picketing suffered little or no injury; notwithstanding which, the enemy, about 500, having formed in close column, advanced to assault our works, at the expected point; at the same time making two feints on the front of Captain Hunter's lines. The column, which advanced against the north-western angle, consisting of about 350 men, was so completely enveloped in smoke, as not to be discovered, until it had approached within 18 or 20 paces of the lines; but, the men being all at their posts, and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and galling a fire, as to throw the column a little into confusion; being quickly rallied, it advanced to the outworks, and began to leap into the ditch; just at that moment, a fire of grape was opened, from our 6 pounder, (which had been previously arranged, so as to rake in that direction,) which, together with the musquetry, threw them into such confusion, that they were compelled to retire, precipitately, to the woods.—During the assault, which lasted about half an hour, an incessant fire was kept up by the enemy's ar-

tillery, (which consisted of five sixes, and a howitzer,) but without effect. My whole loss, during the seige, was one killed, and seven slightly wounded. The loss of the enemy, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, must exceed 150. One Lieut. Colonel, a Lieutenant, and 50 rank and file, were found in and about the ditch, dead or wounded; those of the remainder, who were not able to escape, were taken off, during the night, by the Indians. Seventy stand of arms, and several brace of pistols, have been collected near the works. About 3, in the morning, the enemy sailed down the river, leaving behind them a boat, containing clothing, and considerable military stores.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, under my command, for their gallantry, and good conduct, during the seige.

Yours, with respect,
G. CROGHAN, Maj. 17th U. S. Inf. comg.

Governor Huntington, in a letter to the P. Master General, states the force of Maj. Croghan to have been but 160 men!

INDIAN DECLARATION OF WAR.

[TRANSLATION.] *July*, 1813.

DECLARATION OF WAR, BY THE SIX NATIONS.

WE, the Chiefs and Councillors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the state of New-York, do hereby proclaim, to all the War-Chiefs, and Warriors, of the Six Nations, that war is declared, on our part, against the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Therefore, we do hereby command, and advise all the War-Chiefs to call forth, immediately, the Warriors under them, and put them in motion, to protect their rights and liberties, which our brethren, the Americans, are now defending.

(*Signed*)

BY THE GRAND COUNCILLORS.

CAPTURE OF THE DOMINICO.

Extract of a letter from Capt. John H. Dent, commanding naval officer at Charleston, S. C. to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

August 21, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that the privateer schooner Decatur, of this port, arrived here yesterday, with H. B. M. schooner Dominico, her prize. She was captured on the 5th instant, after a most gallant action of one hour, and carried by boarding, having all her officers killed, except one Midshipman.

The Dominico mounts 15 guns; one a 32 pounder, on a pivot, and had a complement of 83 men, at the commencement of the action, sixty of whom were killed or wounded. She was one of the best equipped and manned vessels, of her class, I have ever seen. The Decatur mounts 7 guns, and had a complement of 103 men, at the commencement of the action, 19 of whom were killed or wounded.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN H. DENT.

CAPTURE OF THE BOXER.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Ed. R. M'Call, of the U. S. Brig Enterprize, to Capt. Isaac Hull, dated

U. S. Brig Enterprize, Portland 7th Sept. 1813.

SIR—In consequence of the unfortunate death of Lieut. Commandant William Burrows, late commander of this vessel, it devolves on me to acquaint you with the result of our cruise.—On the morning of the 4th, weighed anchor, and swept out, and continued our course to the eastward. Having received information, of several privateers being off Manhagan, we stood for that place; and, on the following morning, in the bay near Penguin-point, discovered a brig getting under way, which appeared to be a vessel of war, and to which we immediately gave chase: she fired several guns, and stood for us, having four ensigns hoisted. After reconnoitering, and discovering her

force, and the nation to which she belonged, we hauled upon a wind, to stand out of the bay; and, at 3 o'clock, shortened sail, tacked, and run down, with an intention to bring her to close action. At 20 minutes past 3, P. M. when within half pistol shot, the firing commenced from both; and, after being warmly kept up, and with some manœuvering, the enemy hailed, and said they had surrendered, about 4, P. M.—their colors being nailed to the masts, could not be hauled down. She proved to be his B. M. brig Boxer, of 14 guns, Samuel Blythe, Esq. commander, who fell in the early part of the engagement, having received a cannon shot through the body; and, I am sorry to add, that Lieut. Burrows, who had gallantly led us to action, fell, also, about the same time, by a musquet ball, which terminated his existence in eight hours.

The Enterprize suffered much, in spars and rigging; and the Boxer both in spars, rigging, and hull, having many shots between wind and water.

It would be doing injustice to the merit of Mr. Tillinghast, 2d Lieutenant, were I not to mention the able assistance I received from him, during the remainder of the engagement, by his strict attention to his own division, and other departments; and the officers and crew, generally: I am happy to add, their cool and determined conduct have my warmest approbation and applause. As no muster-roll, that can be fully relied on, has come into my possession, I cannot exactly state the number killed, on board the Boxer; but, from information received from the officers of that vessel, it appears that there were between 20 and 25 killed, and 14 wounded. On board the Enterprize, there was 1 killed, and 13 wounded, among whom was Lieut. Burrows, (since dead,) and Midshipman Warters, mortally. —Sixty-six prisoners.

I have the honor, &c.

EDWARD R. M'CALL, *Sen. Officer.*

Isaac Hull, Esq. Comg. Naval Officer,
on the Eastern station.

PERRY'S VICTORY.

Copy of a letter from Com. Perry, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. Brig Niagara, off the Western Sister,
Head of Lake Erie, September 10th, 1813, 4, P. M.

SIR—It has pleased the ALMIGHTY to give to the ARMS OF THE U. STATES a signal victory over their enemies, on this lake.

The British Squadron, consisting of TWO SHIPS, TWO BRIGS, ONE SLOOP, and ONE SCHOONER, have, this moment, surrendered to the force under my command after a sharp conflict.

I have the honor, &c.

O. H. PERRY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. of the Navy.

FURTHER ACCOUNT.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Perry, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Schr. Ariel, Put-in-Bay, 13th Sept. 1813.

SIR—In my last, I informed you that we had captured the enemy's fleet, on this lake. I have now the honor to give you the most important particulars of the action:—On the morning of the 10th instant, at sun-rise, they were discovered in Put-in-Bay, when I lay at anchor, with the squadron under my command. We got under weigh, the wind light at S. W. and stood for them;—at 10, A. M. the wind hauled to S. E. and brought us to windward; formed the line, and bore up. At 15 minutes before 12, the enemy commenced firing; at 5 minutes before 12, the action commenced on our part. Finding their fire very destructive, owing to their long guns, and its being mostly directed at the Lawrence, I made sail, and directed the other vessels to follow, for the purpose of closing with the enemy—every brace and bow line being soon shot away, she became unmanageable, notwithstanding the great exertions of the sailing-master. In this situation, she sustained the action upwards of two hours, within canister

distance, until every gun was rendered useless, and the greater part of the crew either killed or wounded. Finding she could no longer annoy the enemy, I left her in charge of Lieut. Yarnell, who, I was convinced, by the bravery already displayed by him, would do what would comport with the honor of the flag. At half past 2, the wind springing up, Captain Elliot was enabled to bring his vessel, the Niagara, gallantly into close action; I immediately went on board of her, when he anticipated my wish, by volunteering to bring the schooners, which had been kept astern by the lightness of the wind, into close action.

It was with unspeakable pain that I saw, soon after I got on board of the Niagara, the *flag of the Lawrence come down;* although I was perfectly sensible that she had been defended to the last, and that to have continued to make a show of resistance, would have been a wanton sacrifice of the remains of her brave crew. But the enemy was not able to take possession of her, and *circumstances soon permitted* HER FLAG AGAIN TO BE HOISTED. At 45 minutes past 2, the signal was made for "close action;" the Niagara being very little injured, I determined to pass through the enemy's line—bore up, and passed ahead of their two ships, and a brig, giving a raking fire to them, from the starboard guns, and to a large schooner, and sloop, from the larboard side, at half pistol-shot distance. The smaller vessels, at this time, having got within grape and canister distance, under the direction of Capt. Elliot, and keeping up a well directed fire, the two ships, a brig, and a schooner surrendered; a schooner and sloop making a vain attempt to escape.

Those officers and men, who were immediately under my observation, evinced the greatest gallantry; and, I have no doubt but all others conducted themselves as became American officers and seamen Lieut. Yarnell, 1st of the Lawrence, although several times wounded, refused to quit the deck. Midshipman Forest, (doing duty as Lieutenant,) and sailing-master Taylor, were of great assistance to me. I have great

pain, in stating to you the death of Lieut. Brook, of the marines, and Midshipman Laub, both of the Lawrence, and Midshipman John Clark, of the Scorpion; they were valuable and promising officers. Mr. Hamilton, Purser, who volunteered his services on deck, was severely wounded, late in the action. Midshipman Claxton, and Swartwout, of the Lawrence, were severely wounded. On board of the Niagara, Lieutenants Smith and Edwards, and Midshipman Webster, (doing duty as sailing-master,) behaved in a very handsome manner. Captain Brevoort, of the army, who acted as a volunteer, in the capacity of a marine officer, on board that vessel, is an excellent and brave officer; and, with his musquetry, did great execution. Lieut. Turner, commanding the Caledonia, brought that vessel into action in the most able manner, and is an officer, in all situations, that may be relied on.

The Ariel, Lieut. Packet, and Scorpion, sailing-master Champlin, were enabled to get early into action, and were of great service. Captain Elliot speaks in the highest terms of Mr. Magrath, Purser, who had been dispatched in a boat, on service, previous, to my getting on board the Niagara; and, being a seaman, since the action has rendered essential service in taking charge of one of the prizes.

Of Captain Elliot, already so well known to the government, it would be almost superfluous to speak:—in this action, he evinced his characteristic bravery and judgment; and, since the close of the action, has given me the most able and essential assistance.

I have the honor to enclose you a return of the killed and wounded, together with a statement of the relative force of the squadrons. The Captain and 1st Lieutenant of the Queen Charlotte, and 1st Lieut. of the Detroit, were killed. Captain Barclay, senior officer, and the commander of the Lady Prevost, severely wounded. The commander of the Hunter and Chippewa, slightly wounded. Their loss, in killed and wounded, I have not been able to ascertain; it must, however, have been very great.

I have caused the prisoners, taken on the 10th inst. to be landed at Sandusky; and have requested Gen. Harrison to have them marched to Chillicothe, and there wait, until your pleasure shall be known respecting them.

The Lawrence has been so entirely cut up, it is absolutely necessary she should go into a safe harbor; I have, therefore, directed Lieut. Yarnell to proceed to Erie, in her, with the wounded of the fleet; and dismantle, and get her over the bar, as soon as possible.

The two ships, in a heavy sea, this day, at anchor, lost their masts, being much injured in the action. I shall haul them into the inner bay, at this place, and moor them for the present. The Detroit is a remarkably fine ship; sails well, and is very strongly built;—the Queen Charlotte is a much superior vessel to what has been represented;—the Lady Prevost is a large, fine schooner.

I also beg your instructions, respecting the wounded; I am satisfied, sir, that whatever steps I might take, governed by humanity, would meet your approbation;—under this impression, I have taken upon myself to promise Capt. Barclay, who is very dangerously wounded, that he shall be landed as near Lake Ontario as possible; and, I had no doubt, you would allow me to parole him; he is under the impression, that nothing but leaving this part of the country will save his life. There is, also, a number of Canadians among the prisoners—many who have families.

I have the honor, &c.

O. H. PERRY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

The whole force of the British squadron was 63 guns and 2 swivels;—that of the American squadron, 54 guns, and 2 swivels,; one of the guns burst early in the action.

In the above action, we had 27 killed, and 96 wounded—total, killed and wounded, 123. On the morning of the action, there were 116 unfit for duty.

SIR JAMES YEO's MODE OF FIGHTING.

Extract of a letter from Com. Isaac Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

On board the U. S. S. Gen. Pike, off Duck Island, Sept. 13, 1813.

SIR—On the 7th, at day-light, the enemy's fleet was discovered close in with the Niagara river, wind from the southward—made the signal, weighed with the fleet, (prepared for action) and stood out of the river, after him. He immediately made all sail to the northward; we made sail in chase, with our heavy schooners in tow—and have continued the chase, all round the lake, night and day, until yesterday morning, when he succeeded in getting into Amherst-Bay, which is so little known to our pilots, and said to be so full of shoals, that they are not willing to take me in there. I shall, however, (unless driven from my station by a gale of wind,) endeavor to watch him so close, as to prevent his getting out upon the lake. During our long chase, we frequently got within from one to two miles of the enemy; but our heavy-sailing schooners prevented our closing in with him, until the 11th, off Genesee river; we carried a breeze with us, while he lay becalmed, to within about three-fourths of a mile of him, when he took the breeze, and we had a running-fight of three and a half hours; but, by his superior sailing, he escaped me, and run into Amherst-Bay, yesterday morning. In the course of our chase, on the 11th, I got several broadsides, from this ship, upon the enemy, which must have done him considerable injury, as many of the shot were seen to strike him, and people were observed, over the side, plugging shot-holes; a few shot struck our hull, and a little rigging was cut, but nothing of importance—not a man was hurt.

I was much disappointed, that Sir James refused to fight me, as he was so much superior in point of force, both in guns and men—having upwards of 20 guns more than we have, and throws a greater weight of shot.

This ship, the Madison, and Sylph, have each a schr. constantly in tow; yet the others cannot sail as fast as

the enemy's squadron, which gives him decidedly the advantage, and puts it in his power to engage me when and how he chooses.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

INDIAN WAR IN THE SOUTH.

About this time the Indian war commenced in the South. A portion of the Creeks, headed by British or Spanish officers, attacked Fort St. Stephens, which was a picketed fort, containing 3 or 400 men, women, and children, and butchered and burnt them all except 16, who made their escape.

BRIG ARGUS.

The British official account of the capture of the U. S. brig Argus, on the 14th of August, has been received. *In that account,* the Pelican, which took the Argus, states the force of the two vessels, as follows, viz: —Argus, eighteen 24lb. carronades, and two 12's—127 men. Pelican, sixteen 32 pounders, and three 6's—116 men.—The action lasted 43 minutes. The American loss was 30, killed and wounded; that of the British 6.

MALDEN TAKEN.

Copy of a letter from Major General William H. Harrison, to the War Department, dated

H. Quarters, Amherstburg, Sept. 23, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that I landed the army, under my command, about three miles below this place, at 3 o'clock this evening, without opposition, and took possession of the town an hour after.—General Proctor has retreated to Sandwich, with his

regular troops and Indians, having previously burned the fort, navy-yard, barracks, and public stores; the two latter were very extensive, covering several acres of ground. I will pursue the enemy to-morrow, although there is no probability of overtaking him, as he has upwards of 1000 horses, and we have not one in the army; I shall think myself fortunate to be able to collect a sufficiency to mount the general officers.—It is supposed, here, that General Proctor intends to establish himself upon the river French, 40 miles from Malden.

I have the honor, &c.

WM. H. HARRISON.

DEFEAT OF GEN. PROCTOR.

Head-Quarters, near Moravian-Town, on the river Thames, 80 miles from Detroit, 5th October, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that, by the blessing of Providence, the army under my command has obtained a complete victory over the combined Indian and British forces, under the command of General Proctor. I believe that nearly the whole of the enemy's regulars are taken or killed; amongst the former are all the superior officers, except Gen. Proctor; my mounted men are now in pursuit of him.

Our loss is very trifling; the brave Col. R. M. Johnson is the only officer that I have heard of, that is wounded—he badly, but I hope not dangerously.

I have the honor, &c.

W. H. HARRISON.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. of War.

TREATY WITH THE INDIANS.

Extract of a letter from Gen. M'Arthur, to the Secretary of War, dated Detroit, October 6th, 1813.

On our arrival at Sandwich, my brigade was ordered across the river to disperse some Indians, who were

pillaging the town, and to take possession of this place. Information was received, that several thousand Indians had retired a small distance into the woods, with instructions to attack Gen. Harrison's army, on its passage, for the purpose of retarding its progress; consequently, my brigade was left to garrison this place.

Since General Harrison's departure, five nations of Indians, viz.—Ottowas, Chippewas, Pottewatamies, Miamies, and Kickapoos, who were but a few miles back, have come in for peace; and I have agreed that hostilities should cease, for the present, on the following conditions :—they have agreed to take hold of the same tomahawk with us, and to strike all who are, or may be enemies to the U. States, whether British or Indians; they are to bring in a number of their women and children, and leave them as hostages, whilst they accompany us to war. Some of them have already brought in their women, and are drawing rations.

I have just received a note, from General Harrison, advising, that he had last evening overtaken Gen. Proctor's force, and had gained a complete victory; all the principal officers were in his possesion, except Gen. Proctor; which, no doubt, ends the war in this quarter.

I have the honor, &c.

DUNCAN M'ARTHUR.

Hon. Sec. of War.

THE JULIA AND GROWLER RE-CAPTURED.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. S. Gen. Pike, Sacket's Harbor, Oct. 6th, 1813.

SIR—I have the pleasure to inform you, that I arrived here this morning with five of the enemy's vessels, which I fell in with, and captured last evening, off the Ducks; these were part of a fleet of seven sail, which left York, on Sunday, with 234 troops on board, bound to Kingston. Of this fleet, five were captured, one burnt, and one escaped. The prisoners, amount-

ing to nearly 300, besides having upwards of 300 of our troops on board, from Niagara, induced me to run into port, for the purpose of landing both.

I have an additional pleasure in informing you, that amongst the captured vessels, are the late U S. schrs. Julia and Growler; the others are gun-vessels.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated*

U. S. S. Gen. Pike, off Niagara, Oct. 1, 1813.

SIR—On the 26th ult. it was reported to me, that the enemy's fleet was in York. I immediately dispatched the Lady of the Lake to look into York, and ascertain the fact; she returned in the evening with the information, that the enemy was in York bay. I immediately prepared to weigh; but, owing to a strong wind from N. N. E. was not able to get out of the river before the evening of the 27th; and, owing to the extreme darkness of the night, a part of the squadron got separated, and did not join before next morning, at 8, A. M. On the 28th, the Gen. Pike, Madison, and Sylph, each took a schooner in tow, and made all sail for York; soon after, discovered the enemy's fleet in York bay, shaped our course for him, and prepared for action; he perceived our intention of engaging him in his position—tacked, and stood out of the bay, wind at east. I formed the line, and run down for his centre: when we had approached within about 3 miles, he made all sail to the southward; I wore in succession, and stood on the same tack with him, edging down gradually in order to close. At 10 minutes, past meridian, the enemy, finding we were closing fast with him, and that he must

* This letter bears the Albany post-mark of the 15th inst. having, from some unknown cause, been mislaid in some Post-office.

either risk an action, or suffer his two rear vessels to be cut off, he tacked in succession, beginning at the van, hoisted his colours, and commenced a well directed fire at this ship, for the purpose of covering his rear, and attacking our rear as he passed to leeward. Perceiving his intention, I determined to disappoint him; and, therefore, as soon as the Wolf, (the leading ship,) passed the centre of his line, and a beam of us, I bore up in succession, (preserving our line for the enemy's centre;) this manœuvre not only covered our rear, but hove him in confusion; he immediately bore away. We had, however, closed so near as to bring our guns to bear with effect; and, in 20 minutes, the main and mizen top-mast, and main yard of the Wolf was shot away; he immediately put before the wind—was enabled to outsail most of our squadron; as it brought all the sail upon one mast, he did not feel the loss of his main and mizen top-mast. I continued the chase until near 3 o'clock, during which time I was enabled, in this ship, (with the Asp in tow,) to keep in point-blank shot of the enemy, and sustained the whole of his fire during the chase. Capt Crane, in the Madison, and Lieut. Brown, in the Oneida, used every exertion to close with the enemy; but the Madison having a heavy schooner in tow, and the Oneida sailing very dull before the wind, prevented those officers from closing near enough to do any execution with their carronades. The Gov. Tompkins kept in her station, until her foremast was so badly wounded, as to oblige her to shorten sail. Lieutenant Finch, of the Madison, who commanded her for this cruise, (owing to the indisposition of Lieutenant Pettigrew,) behaved with great gallantry, and is an officer of much promise. Capt. Wolsey, of the Sylph, was kept astern by the Ontario, which he had in tow, but did considerable execution with his heavy guns. At 15 minutes before 3, P. M. I very reluctantly relinquished the pursuit of a beaten enemy; the reasons which led to this determination, were such as, I flatter myself, you will approve—they were these:

At the time I gave up the chase, this ship was making so much water, that it required all our pumps to keep her

free, owing to our receiving several shot so much below the water's edge, that we could not plug the holes from the outside. The Governor Tompkins with her foremast gone, and the squadron within about 6 miles of the head of the lake, blowing a gale of wind from the east, and increasing, with a heavy sea on, and every appearance of the equinox.

I considered, that if I chased the enemy to his anchorage, at the head of the lake, I should be obliged to anchor also; and, although we might succeed in driving him on shore, the probability was, that we should go on shore also: he amongst his friends—we amongst our enemies; and, after the gale abated, if he could succeed in getting off one or two vessels out of the two fleets, it would give him as completely the command of the lake, as if he had 20 vessels; moreover, he was covered, at his anchorage, by a part of his army, and several small batteries thrown up for the purpose; therefore, if we could have rode out the gale, we should have been cut up by their shot from the shore. Under all these circumstances, and taking into view the consequences resulting from the loss of our superiority on the lake, at this time, I, without hesitation, relinquished the opportunity, then presenting itself, of acquiring individual reputation, at the expence of my country. The loss sustained by this ship was considerable, owing to her being so long exposed to the fire of the whole of the enemy's fleet; but our most serious loss was occasioned by the bursting of one of our guns, which killed and wounded 22 men, and tore up the top-gallant forecastle, which rendered the gun, upon that deck, useless. We had 4 other guns cracked in the muzzle, which rendered their use extremely doubtful. Our main top-gallant mast was shot away in the early part of the action; and the bowsprit, fore and main-mast wounded; rigging and sails much cut up, and a number of shot in our hull—several of which were between wind and water; and 27 men killed and wounded, including those by the bursting of the gun. The Madison received a few shot, but no person hurt on board; the Governor Tompkins lost her foremast, and the Oneida her main top-mast badly wound-

ed; we have, however, repaired all our damages, and are ready to meet the enemy.

During our chase, one, if not two of the enemy's vessels were completely in our power—if I could have been satisfied with so partial a victory; but I was so sure of the whole, that I passed them unnoticed; by which means they finally escaped.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

FURTHER, OF PROCTOR'S DEFEAT.

Copy of a letter from Maj. General Harrison, to the Secretary of War, dated

Head-Quarters, Detroit, Oct. 9th, 1813.

SIR—In my letter from Sandwich, of the 30th ult. I did myself the honor to inform you, that I was preparing to pursue the enemy on the following day: from various causes, however, I was unable to put the troops in motion until the morning of the 2d instant; and then to take with me about 140 of the regular troops, Johnson's mounted regiment, and such of Gov. Shelby's volunteers as were fit for a rapid march; the whole amounting to about 3,500 men. To Gen. M'Arthur, (with about 700 effectives,) the protecting this place, and the sick, was committed. Gen. Cass's brigade, and the corps of Lieut. Col. Ball, were left at Sandwich, with orders to follow me as soon as the men received their knapsacks and blankets, which had been left on an island, in lake Erie.

The unavoidable delay at Sandwich was attended with no disadvantage to us; General Proctor had posted himself at Dalson's, on the right bank of the Thames, (or Trench) 56 miles from this place, where, I was informed, he intended to fortify, and wait to receive me. He must

have believed, however, that I had no disposition to follow him, or that he had secured my continuance here by the reports that were circulated, that the Indians would attack and destroy this place, upon the advance of the army—as he neglected to commence the breaking up the bridges, until the night of the 2d instant;—on that night, our army reached the river, which is 25 miles from Sandwich, and is one of four streams, crossing our route, over all of which are bridges; and, being deep and muddy, are not fordable for a considerable distance into the country: the bridge, here, was found entire; and, in the morning, I proceeded, with Johnson's regiment, to save, if possible, the others. At the second bridge, over a branch of the river Thames, we were fortunate enough to capture a Lieutenant of Dragoons, and 11 privates, who had been sent by General Proctor to destroy them. From the prisoners, I learned that the third bridge was broken up, and that the enemy had no certain information of our advance;—the bridge, having been imperfectly destroyed, was soon repaired, and the army encamped at Drake's farm, 4 miles below Dalson's.—The river Thames, along the banks of which our route lay, is a fine deep stream, navigable for vessels of considerable burthen; after the passage of the bar, at its mouth, there is six and a half feet water.

The baggage of the army was brought from Detroit in boats, protected by three gun-boats which Commodore Perry had furnished for the purpose, as well as to cover the passage of the army over the Thames itself, or the mouths of its tributary streams; the banks being low, and the country generally open, (priaries,) as high as Dalson's, these vessels were well calculated for that purpose. Above Dalson's, however, the character of the river and adjacent country is considerably changed; the former, though still deep, is very narrow, and its banks high and woody.

The Commodore and myself, therefore, agreed upon the propriety of leaving the boats under a guard of 150 infantry; and I determined to trust to fortune, and the bravery of my troops, to effect the passage of the river.

Below a place called Chatham, and 4 miles above Dalson's, is the third unfordable branch of the Thames; the bridge over its mouth had been taken up by the Indians, as well as that at M'Gregor's mills, one mile above. Several hundred of the Indians remained to dispute our passage, and upon the arrival of the advanced guard, commenced a heavy fire from the opposite bank of the creek, as well as that of the river. Believing that the whole force of the enemy was there, I halted the army, and formed in order of battle; and brought up our two six pounders, to cover the party that were ordered to repair the bridge; a few shot, from those pieces, soon drove off the Indians, and enabled us, in 2 hours, to repair the bridge, and cross the troops. Col. Johnson's mounted regiment, being upon the right of the army, had seized the remains of the bridge at the mills, under a heavy fire from the Indians. Our loss, upon this occasion, was 2 killed, and 3 or 4 wounded —that of the enemy was ascertained to be considerably greater. A house, near the bridge, containing a considerable number of musquets, had been set on fire; but it was extinguished by our troops, and the arms saved. At the first farm, above the bridge, we found one of the enemy's vessels on fire, loaded with arms and ordnance stores; and learned that they were a few miles ahead of us, still on the right bank of the river, with a great body of Indians. At Bowles' farm, 4 miles from the bridge, we halted for the night; found two other vessels, and a large distillery, filled with ordnance and other valuable stores, to an immense amount, in flames; it was impossible to put out the fire—two 24 prs. with their carriages, were taken, with a large quantity of ball and shell, of various sizes.

The army was put in motion, early on the morning of the 5th. I pushed on, in advance, with the mounted regiment, and requested Gov. Shelby to follow, as expeditiously as possible, with the infantry; the Governor's zeal, and that of his men, enabled them to keep up with the cavalry; and, by 9 o'clock, we were at Arnold's mills, having taken, in the course of the morning, two gun boats, and several batteaux, loaded with provisions and ammunition. A rapid, at the river at Arnold's mills, affords the only

fording to be met with, for a very considerable distance; but, upon examination, it was found too deep for the infantry. Having, fortunately, taken two or three boats, and some Indian canoes, on the spot, and obliging the horsemen to take a footman behind each, the whole were safely crossed by 12 o'clock, Eight miles from the crossing, we passed a farm where a part of the British troops had encamped the night before, under the command of Col. Warburton; the detachment, under General Proctor, had arrived, the day before, at the Moravian towns, four miles higher up. Being now certainly near the enemy, I directed the advance of Johnson's regiment to accelerate their march, for the purpose of procuring intelligence; the officer commanding it, in a short time, sent to inform me, that his progress was stopped by the enemy, who were formed across our line of march: one of the enemy's waggoners also being taken prisoner, from the information received from him, and my own observation, assisted by some of my officers, I soon ascertained enough of their disposition, and order of battle, to determine that, which it was proper for me to adopt.

I have the honor, herewith, to enclose you my general order, of the 27th ult. prescribing the order of march, and of battle, when the whole army should act together; but, as the number and description of the troops had been essentially changed, since the issuing the order, it became necessary to make a corresponding alteration in their disposition.

From the place where our army was last halted, to the Moravian towns, a distance of about three and a half miles, the road passes through a beach forest, without any clearing; and, for the first two miles, near to the bank of the river; at from 2 to 300 yards from the river, a swamp extends parallel to it, throughout the whole distance; the intermediate ground is dry, and, although the trees are tolerably thick, it is in many places clear of underbrush; across this strip of land, its left appuayed upon the river, supported by artillery, placed in the wood; their right in the swamp, covered by the whole of their Indian force—the British troops were drawn up.

The troops, at my disposal, consisted of about 120 regulars of the 27th regiment, five brigades of Kentucky volunteers, militia infantry, under his excellency Governor Shelby, averaging less than 500 men; and Col. Johnson's regiment of mounted infantry, making, in the whole, an aggregate of something above 3000. No disposition of an army, opposed to an Indian force, can be safe, unless it is secured on the flanks, and in the rear; I had, therefore, no difficulty in arranging the infantry, conformably to my general order of battle. General Trotter's brigade, of 500 men, formed the front line; his right upon the road —his left upon the swamp; Gen. King's brigade, as a second line, 150 yards in the rear of Trotter's; and Chile's brigade, as a corps of reserve, in the rear of it—these three brigades formed the command of Major-General Henry; the whole of Gen. Desha's division, consisting of two brigades, were formed, *en potence*, upon the left of Trotter.

Whilst I was engaged in forming the infantry, I had directed Col. Johnson's regiment, which was still in front, to be formed in two lines, opposite to the enemy; and, upon the advance of the infantry, to take the ground upon the left; and, forming upon the flank, to endeavor to turn the right of the Indians.

A moment's reflection, however, convinced me, that, from the thickness of the woods, and swampiness of the ground, they would be unable to do any thing on horseback—and there was no time to dismount them, and place their horses in security; I, therefore, determined to refuse my left to the Indians, and to break the British lines, at once, by a charge of the mounted infantry. The measure was not sanctioned by any thing that I had seen or heard of, but I was fully convinced that it would succeed. The American back-woodsmen ride better in the woods than any other people; a musquet, or rifle, is no impediment to them, being accustomed to carry them, on horseback, from their earliest youth. I was persuaded, too, that the enemy would be quite unprepared for the shock, and that they could not resist it. Conformably to this idea, I directed the regiment to be drawn up in close column, with

its right at the distance of 50 yards upon the road, (that it might be, in some measure, protected by the trees, from the artillery,) its left upon the swamp, and to charge, at full speed, as soon as the enemy delivered their fire. The few regular troops, of the 27th, under their Colonel, (Paul) occupied, in columns of four, the small space between the road and the river, for the purpose of seizing the enemy's artillery; and some, 10 or 12, friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. The *crotchet*, formed by the front line, and Gen. Desha's division, was an important point; at this place the venerable governor of Kentucky was posted, who, at the age of 66, preserves all the vigor of youth—the ardent zeal, which distinguished him in the revolutionary war—and the undaunted bravery, which he manifested at King's Mountain. With my aids-de-camp, the acting assistant Adjutant Gen. Capt. Butler; my gallant friend, Com. Perry, who did me the honor to serve as my volunteer aid-de-camp, and Brig. Gen. Cass, who, having no command, tendered me his assistance—I placed myself at the head of the front line of infantry, to direct the movements of the cavalry, and give them the necessary support. The army had moved on, in this order, but a short distance, when the mounted men received the fire of the British line, and were ordered to charge: the horses, in the front of the column, recoiled from the fire; another was given by the enemy, and our column, at length getting in motion, broke through the enemy with irresistible force. In one minute the contest, in front, was over. The British officers, seeing no hopes of reducing their disordered ranks to order, and our mounted men wheeling upon them, and pouring in a destructive fire, immediately surrendered. It is certain that three only, of our troops, were wounded in this charge. Upon the left, however, the contest was more severe, with the Indians: Col. Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment, received a most galling fire from them, which was returned with great effect. The Indians, still further to the right, advanced, and fell in with our front line of Infantry, near its junction with Desha's division, and, for a moment, made an impression upon

it. His excellency, Gov. Shelby, however, brought up a regiment to its support; and the enemy, receiving a severe fire in front, and a part of Johnson's regiment having gained their rear, retreated with precipitation. Their loss was considerable in the action, and many were killed in their retreat.

I can give no satisfactory information of the number of Indians that were in the action; but they must have been considerably upwards of one thousand. From the documents in my possession, (Gen. Proctor's official letters, all of which were taken) and from the information of respectable inhabitants of this territory, the Indians, kept in pay by the British, were much more numerous than has been generally supposed. In a letter to Gen. De Rottenburg, of the 27th inst. Gen. Proctor speaks of having prevailed upon most of the Indians to accompany him; of these, it is certain that 50 or 60 Wyandot warriors abandoned him.

The number of our troops was certainly greater than that of the enemy; but, when it is recollected that they had chosen a position, which effectually secured their flank, which it was impossible for us to turn; and that we could not present to them a line more extended than their own, it will not be considered arrogant to claim, for my troops, the palm of superior bravery.

In communicating to the President, through you, sir, my opinion of the conduct of the officers, who served under my command, I am at a loss how to mention that of Gov. Shelby, being convinced that no eulogium of mine can reach his merits; the governor of an independent state—greatly my superior in years, in experience, and in military character—he placed himself under my command; and was not more remarkable for his zeal and activity, than for the promptitude and cheerfulness with which he obeyed my orders.

The Major-Generals, Henry and Desha, and the Brigadiers, Allen, Caldwell, Chiles, and Trotter, all of the Kentucky volunteers, manifested great zeal and activity.

It would be useless, sir, after stating the circumstances of the action, to pass encomiums upon Col. Johnson, and

his regiment—veterans could not have manifested more firmness; the Colonel's numerous wounds prove that he was in the post of danger. Lieut. Col. James Johnson, and the Majors Payne and Thompson, were equally active, though more fortunate. Maj. Wood, of the engineers, already distinguished, by his conduct at fort Meigs, attended the army with two 6 pounders; having no use for them in the action, he joined in the pursuit of the enemy; and, with Maj. Payne, of the mounted regiment, two of my aids-de-camp, Todd and Chambers, and three privates, continued it for several miles after the troops had halted, and made many prisoners.

I left the army before an official return of the prisoners, or that of the killed and wounded, was made out; it was, however, ascertained, that the former amounted to 601 regulars, including 25 officers. Our loss is seven killed, and 22 wounded, five of which have since died. Of the British troops, 12 were killed, and 22 wounded; the Indians suffered most—33 of them having been found upon the ground, besides those killed on the retreat.

On the day of the action, six pieces of brass artillery were taken—and 2 iron 24 pounders, the day before;—several others were discovered in the river, and can be easily procured. Of the brass pieces, 3 are the trophies of our revolutionary war, that were taken at Saratoga and York, and surrendered by Gen. Hull. The number of small arms, taken by us, and destroyed by the enemy, must amount to upwards of 5000; most of them had been ours, and taken by the enemy at the surrender of Detroit, at the river Raisin, and at Col. Dudley's defeat. I believe that the enemy retain no other trophy of their victories, than the standard of the 4th regiment; they were not magnanimous enough to bring that of the 41st into the field, or it would have been taken. You have been informed, sir, of the conduct of the troops, under my command, in action; it gives me great pleasure to inform you, that they merit, also, the approbation of their country, for their conduct—in submitting to the greatest privations, with the utmost cheerfulness.

The infantry were entirely without tents; and, for several days, the whole army subsisted upon fresh beef, without bread or salt.—Gen. Proctor escaped by the fleetness of his horses, escorted by 40 dragoons, and a number of Indians.

I have the honor, &c.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

PRIVATEER SARATOGA.

Extract of a letter from Thomas Aderton, Esq. Commander of the private armed schr. Saratoga, to the owners, in New-York.

"We have been chased by brigs, frigates, and line of battle ships; but, at last, off Surinam river, in about 4 fathom water, we captured the British packet-brig Morgiana, of 18 guns, (16 long 9's, and two 12's,) and between 40 and 50 men, James Cunningham, commander, from Falmouth, 29 days out, for Surinam. We discovered the brig at half past 5, A. M. Sept. 26, on our lee bow —made sail in chase. Being to the windward of Surinam, she ran down before the wind, for the river, and gave us a hard run. At a little before 3, P. M. got nearly within musquet-shot, when the chase hoisted English colours, and gave us her stern chasers, which she repeated three times, and cut away some of our rigging. At 3, P. M. we hoisted American colors; and, being within good musquet shot, we commenced the action, and continued, a considerable part of the time, within pistol-shot—and a part of the time close along side—till 25 minutes past 4, P. M. when we carried her by boarding, after a severe action, in which the Saratoga, as well as her prize, were made almost wrecks—stays, shrouds, &c. almost all cut away, and more than one hundred shot-holes in her main-sail—many in our masts, spars, and hull. The bulwarks of the Morgiana being equal, if not superior to those of the Saratoga, enabled her to hold out as long as she did. They fought desperately; and even beyond what prudence would dictate: she had two killed, and eight wounded; (6 mor-

tally,) among which is James Cunningham, Esq. her commander. With regret I have to inform you, our loss was the 1st Lieut. Mr. Sebring, and one man killed, one mortally wounded, and 3 or 4 slightly wounded.

I send Mr. George H. Fellows, prize-master; Mr. Tilton Newcomb, mate; and 12 men, in the brig, ordering her for some port in the U. States, as best suits circumstances and convenience; and, as she is a very fast sailing vessel, feel much confidence that she will arrive safe; she sails nearly as well as the Saratoga, and, I think, will make an excellent privateer. She has been a Spanish sloop of war, a French sloop of war, an English packet, and is now a *Yankee prize*, and is a fine vessel. The Saratoga had but 4 guns, and 116 men—having thrown overboard the rest of her guns, in a chase.

COL. CLARK'S EXPEDITION.

Copy of a letter from Brigadier-General Parker, to the Secretary of War, dated

Burlington, Vt. Oct. 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose you a communication from Col. Isaac Clark, dated the 15th inst. The expedition appears to have been well concerted, and happily executed; for which the Colonel deserves great credit.

On our part, none were killed, and only two wounded—neither of them dangerously.

I have the honor, &c.

THOMAS PARKER, *Brig. Gen. comg.*

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

Extract of a letter from Col. Isaac Clark, to Brigadier-General Parker, dated

Camp, Chazey Landing, Oct. 15, 1813.

It is with great pleasure I can inform you, of a successful attack upon the enemy, at Missisqui bay, on the morn-

ing of the 12th inst. [after detailing his approach to the enemy, which evinces an excellent knowledge of the country, the Col. states:] at this time, I had only the riflemen with me—the artillery moving slow, and the militia protecting their rear.

We proceeded to the village, (Missisqui,) and arrived within 15 rods of the enemy, before we were discovered. We found them drawn up, under Maj. Powell, in a manner that would have annoyed us much, had we attacked them by water; but, wholly unprepared to defend themselves on the land side, they commenced a fire on the left flank; but, in ten minutes after the first attack, they laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

Understanding that a force of 200 men, under Colonel Lock, was marching to attack us, I dispatched Captain Finch, with his company, to reconnoiter them, and ascertain their course; he proceeded with such promptness and ability, as to surprize and capture the advanced guard, consisting of cavalry, excepting one man; who escaped, and, giving the information, the enemy retreated;—the prisoners were then put on board our boats, and sent to Burlington.

Our whole force, engaged, was 102—the number of prisoners taken, is 101—their killed, 9—and wounded, 14.

I am, sir, &c.

ISAAC CLARK.

Brig. Gen. Parker.

SOUTHERN INDIAN WAR.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. John Coffee, to Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson, dated

Camp, at Ten Islands, Nov. 4th, 1813.

SIR—I had the honor, yesterday, of transmitting you a short account of an engagement that took place, between a detachment of about 900 men from my brigade, with the enemy, at Tallushatches towns, the particulars where-

of I beg leave to recite to you:—Pursuant to your order, of the 2d, I detailed, from my brigade of cavalry and mounted riflemen, 900 men and officers, and proceeded directly to the Tallushatches towns; crossed Coosey river, at the fish-dam ford, 3 or 4 miles above this place. I arrived within one and a half miles of the town, (distant from this place, S. E. 8 miles,) on the morning of the 3d, at which place I divided my detachment into two columns; the right, composed of the cavalry, commanded by Col. Allcorn, to cross over a large creek, that lay between us and the towns; the left column was of the mounted riflemen, commanded by Col. Cannon, with whom I marched myself. Col. Allcorn was ordered to march up on the right, and encircle one half of the town; and, at the same time, the left would form a half-circle on the left, and unite the head of the columns in front of the town; all of which was performed, as I could wish. When I arrived within half a mile of the towns, the drums of the enemy began to beat, mingled with their savage yells, preparing for action. It was after sun-rise, an hour, when the action was brought on by Capt. Hammond and Lieut. Patterson's companies, who had gone on, within the circle of alignment, for the purpose of drawing out the enemy from their buildings, which had the most happy effects. As soon as Capt. Hammand exhibited his front, in view of the town, (which stood in open woodland) and gave a few scattering shot, the enemy formed, and made a violent charge on him; he gave way, as they advanced, until they met our right column, which gave them a general fire, and then charged; this changed the direction of charge, completely—the enemy retreated, firing, until they got around, and in their buildings, where they made all the resistance that an overpowered soldier could do; they fought as long as one existed, but their destruction was very soon completed; our men rushed up to the doors of their houses, and, in a few minutes, killed the last warrior of them. The enemy fought with savage fury, and met death, with all its horrors, without shrinking, or complaining; not one asked to be spared, but fought as long as they could stand or sit. In consequence of

their flying to their houses, and mixing with their families, our men, in killing the males, without intention killed and wounded a few of the squaws and children, which was regretted by every officer and soldier of the detachment, but which could not be avoided. The number of the enemy, killed, was 186 that were counted, and a number of others that were killed in the weeds, not found; I think the calculation a reasonable one, to say, 200 of them were killed, and 84 prisoners, of women and children, were taken; not one of the warriors escaped, to carry the news—a circumstance unknown heretofore.

I lost 5 men killed, and 41 wounded; none mortally —the greater part slightly; a number with arrows;—this appears to form a principal part of the enemy's arms, for warfare; every man having a bow, with a bundle of arrows, which is used after the first fire with the gun, until a leisure time for loading offers.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN COFFEE, *Brig. Gen.*

Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson.

PROCLAMATION.

JAMES WILKINSON, *Major-General, and Commander in Chief of an Expedition against the Canadas, to the Inhabitants thereof:—*

The army of the United States, which I have the honor to command, invades these Provinces—to conquer, and not to destroy; to subdue the forces of his Britannic majesty, not to war against his unoffending subjects. Those, therefore, among you, who remain quiet at home, should victory incline to the American standard, shall be protected in their persons and property; but those who are found in arms, must necessarily be treated as avowed enemies.

To menace, is unjust—to seduce, dishonorable—yet it is just and humane to place these alternatives before you.

Done at the Head-Quarters of the Army of the United States, this 6th day of November, 1813, near Ogdensburgh, on the St. Lawrence.

JAMES WILKINSON.

By the General's command,
N. PINKNEY, *Major, and A. D. C.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ARMY.

From Gen. Wilkinson, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, French Mills, adjoining the Province of Lower Canada, November 16, 1813.

SIR—I beg leave to refer you to the journal, which accompanies this letter, for the particulars of the movements of the corps, under my command, down the St. Lawrence, and will endeavor to exert my enfeebled mind to detail to you the more striking and important incidents, which have ensued my departure from Grenadier Island, at the foot of Lake Ontario, on the 3d instant.

The corps of the enemy, at Kingston, which followed me, hung on my rear; and, in concert with a heavy galley, and a few gun-boats, seemed determined to retard my progress. I was strongly tempted to halt—turn about, and put an end to his teazing; but, alas! I was confined to my bed—Maj. Gen. Lewis was too ill for any active exertion; and, above all, I did not dare suffer myself to be diverted, a single day, from a prosecution of the views of government. I had written Maj. Gen. Hampton, on the 6th inst. by his Adjutant-General, Col. King, and had ordered him to form a junction with me, on the St. Lawrence, which I expected would take place on the 9th or 10th. It would have been unpardonable, had I lost sight of this object,

a moment, as I deemed it of vital importance to the issue of the campaign.

The enemy deserve credit for their zeal and intelligence, which the active, universal hostility, of the male inhabitants of the country enabled them to employ, to the greatest advantage. Thus, while menaced by a respectable force in the rear, the coast was lined with musquetry in front, at every critical pass of the river, which obliged me to march a detachment, and this impeded my progress.

On the evening of the 9th inst. the army halted, a few miles from the head of the Longue Saut; In the morning of the 10th, the enclosed order was issued.—General Brown marched agreeably to order, and about noon we were apprized, by the report of his artillery, that he was engaged, some distance below us. At the same time, the enemy were observed in our rear; and their galley and gun-boats approached our flotilla, and opened a fire upon us, which obliged me to order a battery of 18 pounders to be planted, and a shot from it compelled the vessels of the enemy to retire, together with their troops, after some firing between the advanced parties.

But, by this time, in consequence of disembarking, and re-embarking the heavy guns, the day was so far spent, that our pilots did not dare to enter the Saut; (eight miles, a continued rapid,) and, therefore, we fell down about two miles, and come to for the night.

Early the next morning, every thing was in readiness for motion; but, having received no intelligence from Gen. Brown, I was still delayed, as sound caution prescribed I should learn the result of the affair, before I committed the flotilla to the Saut. At half past 10, A. M. an officer of dragoons arrived with a letter, in which the General informed me he had forced the enemy, and would reach the foot of the Saut, early in the day. Orders were immediately given, for the flotilla to sail; at which instant the enemy's gun-boats appeared, and began to throw shot among us; information was brought me, at the same time, from Brig. General

Boyd, that the enemy's troops were advancing in column; I immediately sent orders to him to attack them. This report was soon contradicted; their boats, however, continued to scratch us, and a variety of reports of their movements, and counter-movements, were brought to me in succession; which convinced me of their determination to hazard an attack, when it could be done to the greatest advantage; and, therefore, I resolved to anticipate them. Directions were, accordingly, sent, by that distinguished officer, Col. Swift, of the engineers, to Brig. Gen. Boyd, to throw the detachments of his command, assigned to him in the order of the preceding day, and composed of men of his own, Covington's and Swartwout's brigades, into three columns, to march upon the enemy, outflank them if possible, and take their artillery. The action soon after commenced with the advanced body of the enemy, and became extremely sharp and galling, and with occasional pauses, not sustained with great vivacity, in open space and fair combat, for upwards of two and an half hours, the adverse lines alternately yielding and advancing.

It is impossible to say, with accuracy, what was our number on the field; because it consisted of indefinite detachments, taken from the boats, to render safe the passage of the Saut. Generals Covington and Swartwout voluntarily took part in the action, at the head of detachments from their respective brigades, and exhited the same courage that was displayed by Brig. Gen. Boyd, who happened to be the senior officer on the ground. Our force, engaged, might have reached 16 or 1700 men; but actually did not exceed 1800;—that of the enemy was estimated from 1200 to 2000, but probably did not amount to more than 15 or 1600—consisting, as I am informed, of detachments from the 49th, 84th, and 104th regiments of the line; with three companies of the Voltigeur and Glengary corps, and the militia of the country, who are not included in the estimate.

It would be presumptuous in me to attempt to give

you a detailed account of this affair, which certainly reflects high honor on the valor of the American soldier; as no examples can be produced of undisciplined men, with inexperienced officers, braving a fire of two hours and a half, without quitting the field, or yielding to their antagonists. But, sir, the information I now give you, is derived from officers in my confidence, who took parts in this conflict; for, though I was enabled to order the attack, it was my hard fortune not to be able to lead the troops I commanded; the disease, with which I was assailed the 2d September, on my journey to fort George, having, with a few short intervals of convalescence, preyed on me ever since; and, at the moment of this action, I was confined to my bed, and emaciated almost to a skeleton; unable to sit on my horse, or to move ten paces without assistance.

I must, however, be pardoned for trespassing on your time a few remarks, in relation to the affair:—the objects of the British and American commanders were precisely opposed—the last being bound by instructions of his government, and the most solemn obligations of duty, to precipitate his descent of the St. Lawrence, by every practicable means; because, this being effected, one of the greatest difficulties opposed to the American arms would be surmounted—and the first, by duties equally imperious, to retard, and, if possible, to prevent such descent. He is to be accounted victorious, who effects his purpose! The British commander, having failed to gain either of his objects, can lay no claim to the honors of the day; the battle fluctuated, and the triumph seemed, at different times, inclined to the contending corps; the front of the enemy were, at first, forced back more than a mile; and, though they never regained the ground they lost, their stand was permanent, and their charges resolute. Amidst these charges, and near the close of the contest, we lost a field piece, by the fall of the officer, who was serving it with the same coolness, as if he had been at a parade of review; this was Lieutenant Smith, of the light artillery, who, in point of merit, stood at the

head of his grade. The enemy having halted, and our troops being formed again, in battalion, front to front, and the firing having ceased on both sides, we resumed our position on the bank of the river, and the infantry being much fatigued, the whole were re-embarked, and proceeded further down the river, without further annoyance from the enemy or their gun-boats—while the dragoons, with five pieces of light artillery, marched down the Canada shore, without molestation.

It is due to his rank, to his worth, and his services, that I should make particular mention of Brig. Gen. Covington, who received a mortal wound directly through the body, while animating his men, and leading them to the charge—he fell, where he fought, at the head of his men, and survived but two days.

The next morning the flotilla passed the Saut, and joined that excellent officer, Brig. Gen. Brown, at Barnhart's, near Cornwall, where he had been instructed to take post, and wait my arrival; and where I confidently expected to hear of Maj. Gen. Hampton's arrival, on the opposite shore. But, immediately after I halted, Col. Atkinson, the Inspector-General of the division under Maj. Gen. Hampton, waited on me, with a letter from that officer; in which, to my unspeakable mortification and surprize, he declined the junction ordered, and informed me he was marching towards Lake Champlain, by way of co-operating in the proposed attack on Montreal. This letter, together with a copy of that to which it was an answer, were immediately submitted to a Council of War, consisting of my general officers, and the Colonel commanding the elite, the chief engineer, and the Adjutant-General—who unanimously gave it as their opinion "that the attack on Montreal should be abandoned for the present season, and the army near Cornwall should be immediately crossed to the American shore, for taking up winter quarters; and that this place afforded an eligible situation for such quarters."

I acquiesced in those opinions, not from the shortness of the stock of provisions, (which had been reduced by the acts of God,) because that of our meat had

been increased five days, and our bread had been reduced only two days; and, because we could, in case of extremity, have lived upon the enemy—but because the loss of Maj. Gen. Hampton weakened my force too sensibly, to justify the attempt. In all my measures, and movements of moment, I have taken the opinions of my general officers, which have been in accord with my own.

I remained on the Canada shore until the next day, without seeing or hearing from the "powerful force" of the enemy in our neighborhood, and the same day reached this position, with the artillery and infantry. The dragoons have been ordered to Utica, and its vicinity; and, I expect, are 50 or 60 miles on their march.

You have, under cover, a summary abstract of the killed and wounded, in the affair of the 11th instant, which shall soon be followed by a particular return, in which a just regard shall be paid to individual merits —the dead rest in honor, and the wounded bled for their country, and deserve its gratitude.

With perfect respect, &c.

JAMES WILKINSON.

In the action of the 11th inst. the American loss was 102 killed, and 232 wounded—total, killed and wounded, 334.

THE PROPOSED JUNCTION.

From General Wilkinson, to General Hampton.

H. Q. of the Army, 7 miles above Ogdensburgh,
Nov. 6, 1813. (in the evening.)

SIR—I address you at the special instance of the Secretary of War, who, by bad roads, worse weather, and ill health, was diverted from meeting me, near this place, and determined to tread back his steps to Washington, from Antwerp, on the 29th ult.

I am destined to, and determined on the attack of

Montreal, if not prevented by some act of God; and to give security to the enterprize, the division under your command must co-operate with the corps under my immediate orders. The point of rendezvous is the circumstance of greatest interest to the issue of this operation; and the distance which separates us, and my ignorance of the practicability of the direct or devious routes, by which you must march, make it necessary that your own judgment should determine that point. To assist you in making the soundest determination, and to take the most prompt and determined measures, I can only inform you of my intentions and situation, in some respects of first importance:—I shall pass Prescott to-night, because the stage of the season will not allow me three days to take it—shall cross the cavalry at Hamilton, which will not require a day;—I shall thence press forward, and break down every opposition, to this river, there to cross the Isle Perrot, and, with my scows, to bridge the narrow inner channel, and thus obtain foothold on Montreal Island, at about 20 miles from the city; after which, our artillery, bayonets, and swords, must secure our triumph, or provide us honorable graves.

Inclosed you have a memorandum of field and battering train, pretty well found in fixed ammunition, which may enable you to dismiss your own; but we are deficient in loose powder, and musquet cartridges; and, therefore, hope you may be abundantly found.

On the subject of provisions, I wish I could give a favorable information; our whole stock of bread may be computed at about 15 days, and our meat at 20. In speaking on this subject to the Secretary of War, he informed me, ample magazines were laid up on Lake Champlain, and, therefore, I must request of you to order forward two or three months supply, by the safest route, in a direction to the proposed scene of action. I have submitted the state of our provisions to my general officers, who unanimously agree that it should not prevent the progress of the expedition; and they

also agree in opinion, if you are not in force to face the enemy, you should meet us at St. Regis, or its vicinity.

I shall expect to hear from, if not see you at that place, on the 9th.

I have the honor, &c.

JAMES WILKINSON.

Maj. Gen. Hampton.

ANSWER.

From Gen. Hampton to Gen. Wilkinson.

Head-Quarters, Four Corners, Nov. 8, 1813.

SIR—I had the honor to receive, at a late hour last evening, by Col. King, your communication of the 6th; and was deeply impressed with a sense of the responsibility it imposed, of deciding upon the means of our co-operation. The idea suggested, as the opinion of your officers, of effecting the junction at St. Regis, was most pleasing, as being most immediate, until I came to the disclosure of the amount of your supplies of provisions.—Col. Atkinson will explain the reasons, that would have rendered it impossible for me to have brought more than each man could have carried on his back; and, when I reflected, that in throwing myself upon your scanty means, I should be weakening you in your most vulnerable point, I did not hesitate to adopt the opinion, after consulting the general and principal officers, that, by throwing myself back on my main depot, when all the means of transportation had gone, and falling upon the enemy's flank, and straining every effort to open a communication from Plattsburgh to Coghnowaga, or any other point you may indicate on the St. Lawrence, I should more effectually contribute to your success, than by a junction at St. Regis; the way is, in many places, blockaded and abatted, and the road impracticable for wheel-carriages during the winter; but, by the employment of pack-horses, if I am not overpowered, I hope to prevent your starving. I have ascertained, and witnessed, that the plan of the ene-

my is to burn, and consume every thing in our advance. My troops, and other means, will be described to you by Col. Atkinson; besides the rawness and sickness, they have endured fatigues, equal to a winter's campaign, in the late snows and bad weather, and are sadly dispirited and fallen off; but, upon this subject, I must refer you to Col. Atkinson.

With these means, what can be accomplished by human exertion, I will attempt—with a mind devoted to the general objects of the campaign.

I have the honor, &c.

W. HAMPTON.

His Ex. Maj. Gen. J. Wilkinson.

THE AFFAIR AT WILLIAMSBURGH.

Gen. Wilkinson to Gen. Armstrong.

H. Quarters, French Mills, Nov. 18, 1813.

SIR—I beg this may be considered as an appendage to my official communication, respecting the action of the 11th inst. I last evening received the enclosed iuformation, the result of the examination of sundry prisoners, taken on the field of battle; which justifies the opinion of the surviving general officers, who were in the engagement. This goes to prove, that though the imperious obligation of duty did not allow me sufficient time to route the enemy, they were beaten—the accidental loss of one field-piece notwithstanding, after it had been discharged 15 or 20 times. I have also learned, from what is considered good authority, (but I will not vouch for the correctness of it,) that the enemy's loss exceeded 500, killed and wounded. The enclosed report will correct an error in my former communication: as, it appears, it was the 39th, and not the 84th British regiment, which was engaged on the 11th. I beg leave to mention, relative to the action of the 11th, what, from my extreme indisposition, I have omitted:—having received information, late in the day, that the contest had become somewhat dubi-

ous, I ordered up a reserve of 600 men, whom I had directed to stand by their arms, under Lieut. Col. Upham, who gallantly led them into action, which terminated a few minutes after their arrival on the ground.

With consideration, &c.

JAMES WILKINSON.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

The strength of the enemy, according to the statement of a number of British prisoners, taken on the field of battle, (and separately examined,) was 2,100 men—4 pieces of artillery, and 7 gun-boats, one mounting a 24 pounder.

AFFAIR AT CHATAUGAY.

Copy of a letter from General Wade Hampton, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Quarters, Four Corners, Nov. 1. 1813.

SIR—On the morning of the 21st ult. the army commenced its movement down the Chataugay, for the purpose of placing itself in a situation which would enable it to fulfil its parts of the proposed combined operations, on the St. Lawrence.

An extensive wood, of 11 or 12 miles in front, blocked up with felled timber, and covered by the Indians and light troops of the enemy, was a serious impediment to the arduous task of opening a road for the artillery and stores. Brig. Gen. Izard, with the light troops, and one regiment of the line, was detached, early in the morning, to turn these impediments in flank, and to seize on the more open country below; while the army, preceded by a strong working party, advanced on a more circuitous but practicable route for a road. The measure, as will be seen by the report of Brig. Gen. Izard, which I have the honor to enclose, completely succeeded; and the main body of the army reached the advanced position, on the evening of the 22d; the 23d and 24th were employed in completing the road, and getting up the artillery and stores.

I had arranged, at my departure, under the direction of Major Parker, a line of communication, as far up the St. Lawrence as Ogdensburgh, for the purpose of hastening to me the earliest notice of the progress of our army down. I had surmounted 24 miles of the most difficult part of the route, and had, in advance of me, seven miles of open country; but, at the end of that distance, commenced a wood of some miles in extent, which had been formed into an entire abattis, and filled by a succession of wooden breast-works, the rearmost of which were supplied with ordnance. In front of these defences were placed the Indian force, and light corps of the enemy; and, in the rear, all of his disposable force. As the extent of this force depended upon his sense of danger on the St. Lawrence, it was a cause of regret that all communication, from yourself or Major Parker, seemed to be at an end. As it was, however, believed that the enemy was hourly adding to his strength, in this position—if free from the apprehension of danger from above, an effort was judged necessary to dislodge him; and, if it succeeded, we should be in possession of a position which we could hold as long as any doubts remained of what was passing above, and of the real part to be assigned us.

Our guides assured us of a shoal and practicable fording-place, opposite the lower flank of the enemy's defences; and that the wood, on the opposite side of the river, a distance of seven or eight miles, was practicable for the passage of the troops. Col. Purdy, with the light corps, and a strong body of infantry of the line, was detached, at an early hour of the night of the 25th, to gain this ford by the morning, and to commence his attack in the rear; and that was to be the signal for the army to fall on in front—and, it was believed, the pass might be carried, before the enemy's distant troops could be brought forward to its support.

I had returned to my quarters, from Purdy's column, about 9 o'clock at night, when I found a Mr. Baldwin, of the Quarter-Master General's department, who put into my hands an open paper, containing instructions to him, from the Quarter-Master General, respecting the building

of huts for the army, in Chataugay, below the line. This paper sunk my hopes, and raised serious doubts of receiving that efficacious support which had been anticipated; I would have recalled the column, but it was in motion—and the darkness of the night rendered it impracticable. I could only go forward. The army was put in motion on the morning of the 26th, leaving its baggage &c. on the ground of encampment.

On advancing near the enemy, it was found that the column, on the opposite side, was not as far advanced as had been anticipated; the guides had misled it, and finally failed in finding the ford. We could not communicate with it, but only awaited the attack below. About two o'clock the firing commenced, and our troops advanced rapidly to the attack. The enemy's light troops commenced a sharp fire, but Brig. Gen. Izard advanced, with his brigade—drove him every where behind his defences, and silenced the fire in his front. This brigade would have pushed forward, as far as courage, skill and perseverance could have carried it; but, on advancing, it was found that the firing had commenced on the opposite side, and the ford had not been gained. The enemy retired behind his defences; but a renewal of his attack was expected, and the troops remained some time in their position to meet it. The troops, on the opposite side, were excessively fatigued; the enterprize had failed in its main point; and Col. Purdy was ordered to withdraw his column to a shoal, four or five miles above, and cross over. The day was spent, and Gen. Izard was ordered to withdraw his brigade to a position, three miles in the rear, to which place the baggage had been ordered forward.

The slowness, and order, with which Gen. Izard retired with his brigade, could but have inspired the enemy with respect; they presumed not to venture a shot at him during his movement; but the unguardedness of some part of Purdy's command exposed him to a rear attack from the Indians, which was repeated after dark, and exposed him to some loss; these attacks were always repelled, and must have cost the enemy as many lives as we lost. Our entire loss, of killed, wounded, and missing, does not ex-

ceed 50. In its new position, within three miles of the enemy's post, the army encamped on the night of the 26th, and remained until 12 o'clock of the 28th. All the deserters, of whom there were four, having concurred in the information that Sir George Prevost, with three other general officers, had arrived, with the whole of his disposable force, and lay in the rear of these defences; and a letter from Major Parker, (by express, received on the evening of the 26th,) having informed me that no movements of our army, down the St. Lawrence, had been heard of at Ogdensburgh, and for some distance above. The following questions were submitted to the commanding officers of brigades, regiments and corps, and the heads of the general staff, in a council, convened for the purpose :—" Is it advisable, under existing circumstances, to renew the attack on the enemy's position ; and, if not, what position is it advisable for the army to take, until it can receive advices of the advance of the grand army down the St. Lawrence ?" The opinion of the council was expressed in the following words :—" It is the unanimous opinion of this council, that it is necessary, for the preservation of this army, and the fulfilment of the ostensible views of the government, that we immediately return, by orderly marches, to such a position, (Chataugay,) as will secure our communications with the U. States, either to retire into winter quarters, or to be ready to strike below." In pursuance of this opinion, the army has returned, by slow marches, to this place, and now awaits the orders of the government. Its condition will be stated by the bearer, Col. King, who can give you, upon every point, more full and perfect information, than could be contained in a written detail.

I have the honor, &c.

W. HAMPTON.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Sec. War.

VICTORY OVER THE CREEKS.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Cocke, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Fort Armstrong, Nov. 28, 1813.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose you a copy of Brig. Gen. James White's detailed report of his excursion to the Hillibee Towns.

I am, &c.

JOHN COCKE, *Major-General.*

GEN. WHITE'S REPORT.

Fort Armstrong, Nov. 24th, 1813.

DEAR GENERAL—In mine of the 19th instant, by Major Outlaw, I promised you a detailed report, respecting the detachment ordered by you to the Hillibee Towns, in the Creek nation. In compliance with that promise, I have now the honor to state—That, under your order of the 11th inst. I immediately marched with the mounted infantry, under the immediate command of Col. Burch; the cavalry, under the command of Major Porter; and a few of the Cherokee Indians, under the command of Col. Morgan—with very short rations for four days only. We continued our march to Little Oakfuskie, when we fell in with, and captured five hostile Creek warriors, supposed to be spies. Finding no other Indians at that place, we burned the town, which consisted of 30 houses. We then proceeded to a town called Genalga, and burned the same, consisting of 93 houses; thenee we proceeded to Nitty Chaptoa, consisting of about 25 houses, which I considered it most prudent not to destroy, as it might possibly be of use at some future period. From thence we marched to the Hillibee Town, consisting of about 20 houses, adjoining which was Grayson's farm. Previous to our arrival at that place, I was advised that a part of the hostile Creeks was assembled there. Having marched within six or seven miles of it, on the 17th, I dismounted a part of the force under my command, and sent them under

the command of Col. Burch, with the Cherokees, under the command of Col. Morgan, in advance, to surround the town in the night, and make the attack at daylight, on the 18th. Owing to the darkness of the night, the town was not reached until after daylight—but so complete was the surprize, that we succeeded in surrounding the town, and killing, and capturing almost (if not entirely) the whole of the hostile Creeks assembled there, consisting of about 316, of which number about 60 warriors were killed on the spot, and the remainder made prisoners.—Before the close of the engagement, my whole force was up, and ready for action, had it become necessary; but, owing to the want of knowledge, on the part of the Indians, of our approach, they were entirely killed and taken before they could prepare for any effectual defence. We lost not one drop of blood in accomplishing this enterprize. We destroyed this village; and, in obedience to your orders, commenced our march for this post, which we were unable to reach until yesterday. I estimate the distance, from this to Grayson's farm, at about 100 miles. The ground over which we travelled, is so rough and hilly as to render a passage very difficult. Many defiles it was impossible to pass in safety, without the greatest precaution. For a part of the time, the weather was so very wet, being encumbered with prisoners, and the troops, and their horses having to subsist, in a very great degree, upon such supplies as we could procure in the nation, rendered our march more tardy than it otherwise would have been.

The troops under my command have visited the heart of that section of the Creek nation where the Red Sticks were first distributed.

In justice to this gallant band, I am proud to state, that the whole of the officers and men, under the command of Col. Burch, performed their duty cheerfully, and without complaint—that from the cool, orderly and prompt manner in which Major Porter, and the cavalry under his command, formed and conducted themselves in every case of alarm, I had the highest confidence in them. Col. Morgan, and the Cherokees under his command, gave unde-

niable evidence that they merit the employ of their government. In short, sir, the whole detachment under my command, conducted in such a manner as to enable me to assure you that they are capable of performing any thing to which the same number of men are equal.

It gives me pleasure to add, that Mr. M'Corry, who acted as my aid in this expedition, rendered services that to me were indispensible—to his country very useful, and to himself highly honorable.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES WHITE, *Brig. Gen.*

Major Gen. John Cocke.

GEN. FLOYD'S VICTORY OVER THE CREEKS.

Head-Quarters, 6th and 7th districts.
Milledgeville, 7th Dec. 1813.

SIR—I have the honor of enclosing to you a copy of the official account which I have just received from Brigadier-General Floyd, of an attack made by him on the hostile Indians, and sincerely congratulate your excellency on the good conduct and bravery displayed on this occasion by the officers and troops of the state in which you preside.

I have the honor to be, &c.

THOMAS PINCKNEY.

His excellency Peter Early.

Camp west of Catahouchie, Dec. 4, 1813.

Major-General Pinckney,

SIR—I have the honor to communicate to your excellency, an account of an action fought the 29th ult. on the Talapoosie river, between part of the force under my command and a large body of the Creek Indians.

Having received information that numbers of the hostile Indians were assembled at Autossee, a town on the southern bank of the Talapoosie, about eighteen miles from the

Hickory-ground, and twenty above the junction of that river with the Coosa, I proceeded to it with 950 of the Georgia militia, accompanied by between 3 and 400 friendly Indians. Having encamped within nine or ten miles of the point of destination the preceding evening, we resumed the march a few minutes before one on the morning of the 29th, and at half past six were formed for action in front of the town.

Booth's battalion composed the right column, and marched from its centre. Watson's battalion composed the left, and marched from its right; Adams' rifle company, and Merriwether's under Lieutenant Hendon, were on the flanks; Captain Thomas' artillery marched in front of the right column in the road.

It was my intention to have completely surrounded the enemy, by *appuying* the right wing of my force on Canlehee creek, at the mouth of which I was informed the town stood, and resting the left on the river bank below the town; but to our surprise, as day dawned, we perceived a second town about five hundred yards below that which we had first viewed, and were preparing to attack. The plan was immediately changed—three companies of infantry on the left were wheeled to the left into *echellon*, and were advanced to the low town, accompanied by Meriwether's rifle company, and two troops of light dragoons under the command of captains Irwin and Steele.

The residue of the force approached the upper town, and the battle soon became general. The Indians presented themselves at every point, and fought with the desperate bravery of real fanatics. The well directed fire, however, of the artillery, added to the charge of the bayonet, soon forced them to take refuge in the out houses, thickets, and copses in the rear of the town; many it is believed, concealed themselves in caves, previously formed for the purpose of secure retreat, in the high bluff of the river, which was thickly covered with reed and brushwood. The Indians of the friendly party who accompanied us on the expedition, were divided into four companies, and placed under the command of leaders of their own selection. They were, by engagement entered into

the day previous, to have crossed the river above the town, and been posted on the opposite shore during the action, for the purpose of firing upon such of the enemy as might attempt to escape, or keep in check any reinforcements which might probably be thrown in from the neighboring towns; but owing to the difficulty of the ford, and coldness of the weather, and the lateness of the hour, this arrangement failed, and their leaders were directed to cross Canleebee creek, and occupy that flank, to prevent escapes from the Tallisee town. Some time after the action commenced, our red friends thronged, in disorder, in the rear of our lines. The Cowetaws, under M'Intosh, and the Tookabatchians, under Mad Dog's Son, fell on our flanks, and fought with an intrepidity worthy of any troops.

At 9 o'clock the enemy was completely driven from the plain, and the houses of both towns wrapped in flames. As we were then 60 miles from any depot of provisions, and our five days rations pretty much reduced, in the heart of the enemy's country, which in a few moments could have poured, from its numerous towns, hosts of its fiercest warriors—as soon as the dead and wounded were disposed of, I ordered the place to be abandoned, and the troops to commence their march to Chatahouche.

It is difficult to determine the strength of the enemy; but, from the information of some of the chiefs, which it is said can be relied on, there were assembled at Autosse, warriors from eight towns, for its defence—it being their beloved ground, on which they proclaimed no white man could approach, without inevitable destruction. It is difficult to give a precise account of the loss of the enemy; but, from the number which were lying scattered over the field, together with those destroyed in the towns, and the many slain on the banks of the river, which respectable officers affirm they saw lying in heaps at the water's edge, where they had been precipitated by their surviving friends, their loss, in killed, independent of their wounded, must have been, at least, 200, (among whom are the Autosse and Tallissee kings,) and from the circumstance of their making no efforts to molest our return, probably

greater. The number of buildings burnt, some of a superior order for the dwelling of savages, and filled with valuable articles, is supposed to be 400.

Adjutant-General Newman rendered important services during the action, by his cool and deliberate courage. My aid, Major Crawford, discharged, with promptitude, the duties of a brave and meritorious officer. Maj. Pace, who acted as field-aid, also distinguished himself; both these gentlemen had their horses shot under them, and the latter lost his. Dr. Williamson, hospital surgeon, and Dr. Clopton, were prompt and attentive in discharge of their duty towards the wounded, during the action.

Major Freeman, at the head of Irwin's troop of cavalry and part of Steele's, made a furious and successful charge upon a body of Indians, sabred several, and completely defeated them. Captain Thomas and his company, Capt. Adams, and Lieut. Hendon's rifle companies, killed a great many Indians, and deserve particular praise. Captain Barton's company were in the hottest of the battle, and fought like soldiers. Captain Myrick, Captain Little, Captain King, Captain Broadnax, Capt. Cleveland, Capt. Joseph T. Cunningham, and Captain Lee, with their companies, distinguished themselves. Brigade-Major Sharkleford was of great service in bringing the troops into action; and Adjutant Broadnax, and Major Montgomery, who acted as Assistant-Adjutant, showed great activity and courage. Major Booth used his best endeavors in bringing his battalion to action, and Major Watson's battallion acted with considerable spirit. Irwin's, Patterson's and Steele's troops of cavalry, whenever an opportunity presented, charged with success. Lieutenant Strong had his horse shot, and narrowly escaped; and Quarter-master Tennal displayed the greatest heroism, and miraculously escaped, though badly wounded, after having his horse shot from under him. The topographical engineer was vigilant in his endeavors to render service.

The troops deserve the highest praise for their fortitude, in enduring hunger, cold, and fatigue, without a murmur, having marched a hundred and twenty miles, in seven days.

The friendly Indians lost several, killed and wounded; the number not exactly known. Captain Barton, an active and intelligent officer, (the bearer of these dispatches,) can, more particularly, explain to your excellency, the conduct, movements, and operations of the army.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN FLOYD, *B. Gen.*

In the above actions, there were 11 killed and 54 wounded.—Brig. Gen. Floyd wounded severely, and Adj. Gen. Newman, slightly.

LOSS OF FORT NIAGARA.

Copy of a letter from Gen. M'Clure, of the New-York State troops, to the Secretary of War.

H. Quarters, Buffaloe, Dec. 22, 1813.

SIR—I regret to be under the necessity of announcing to you the mortifying intelligence of the loss of Fort Niagara. On the morning of the 19th inst. about 4 o'clock, the enemy crossed the river at the Five-mile Meadows, in great force—consisting of regulars and Indians, who made their way, undiscovered, to the garrison, which, from the most correct information I could collect, was completely surprized. Our men were nearly all asleep in their tents—the enemy rushed in, and commenced a most horrid slaughter; such as escaped the fury of the first onset retired to the old mess-house, where they kept up a destructive fire on the enemy, until a want of ammunition compelled them to surrender. Although our force was very inferior, and comparatively small indeed, I am induced to think that the disaster is not attributable to *any want of troops*, but to *gross neglect in the commanding officer of the fort*, Captain Leonard, in not preparing, being ready, and looking out for the expected attack.

I have not been able to ascertain, correctly, the number of killed and wounded; about twenty regulars have escaped out of the fort, some badly wounded. Lieut. Peck, of the 24th regiment, is killed, and it is said three others.

You will perceive, sir, by the enclosed general orders, that I apprehended an attack, and made the necessary arrangements to meet it; but have reason to believe, from information received by those who have made their escape, that the commandant did not, in any respect, comply with those orders.

On the same morning, a detachment under Major Bennet, stationed at Lewistown Heights, was attacked by a party of savages; but the Major, and his little corps, by making a desperate charge, effected their retreat, after being surrounded by several hundred, with the loss of six or eight, who doubtless were killed, among whom were two sons of Capt. Jones, Indian interpreter. The villages of Youngstown, Lewistown, Manchester, and the Indian Tuscarora village, were reduced to ashes; and the inoffensive inhabitants, who could not escape, were, without regard to age or sex, inhumanly butchered by savages, headed by British officers, *painted.* A British officer, who is taken prisoner, avows, that many small children were murdered by their Indians. Major Mallory, who was stationed at Schlosser, with about 40 Canadian volunteers, advanced to Lewistown Heights, and compelled the advanced guard of the enemy to fall back to the foot of the mountain; the Major is a meritorious officer; he fought the enemy two days, and contended every inch of ground to the Tautawanty creek. In these actions, Lieut. Lowe, 23d regiment, U. S. infantry, and 8 of the Canadian volunteers, were killed. I had, myself, three days previous to the attack on the Niagara, left it with a view of providing for the defence of this place, Black Rock, and the other villages on this frontier. I came here without troops, and have called out the militia of Genesee, Niagagara and Chatauque counties, *en masse.*

I have the honor, &c.

GEO. M'CLURE, *Brig. Gen. Comg.*

Hon. J. Armstrong.

GENERAL ORDERS.

H. Quarters, Fort Niagara, Dec. 12, 1813.

Capt. Leonard will, as soon as possible, have a proportion of hand grenades, in the different block-houses, and give directions to the officers of the infantry where they should be posted, with their men, in case of an attack;—and, should they not be able to maintain the outworks, to repair the block and mess-houses; and have every thing arranged in such a manner, as though he expected an immediate attack. Much is expected of Capt. Leonard, from his long experience and knowledge of duty; and the General feels confident he will be well supported by Capt. Loomis, of the artillery, as well as the officers of infantry.

By order of Gen. M'Clure,

DONALD FRASER, *Lieut.* 15*th Infantry, Vol. Aid-de-Camp.*

CAPTAIN LEONARD.

Extract of a letter from Gen. M'Clure, dated.

Batavia, Dec. 25, 1813.

"It is a notorious fact, that the night on which Fort Niagara was captured, Capt. Leonard left the fort about 11 o'clock, P. M. I am assured that he has since given himself up to the enemy, and that he and his family are now on the Canadian side of the strait."

BUFFALOE DESTROYED.

From Major-General Hall, to Governor Tompkins, dated

H. Q. Niagara Frontier, Dec. 30, 1813.
7 o'clock, P. M.

SIR—I have only time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 25th inst. and to add, that this frontier is wholly desolate. The British crossed over, supported by a strong party of Indians, at a little before day-light, this morning, near Black Rock; they were met by the mi-

litia, under my command, with spirit; but overpowered by numbers and discipline of the enemy, the militia gave way, and fled on every side—every attempt to rally them was ineffectual. The enemy's purpose was obtained, and the flourishing village of Buffaloe laid in ruins. The Niagara frontier now lies open and naked to our enemies;—your judgment will direct you what is most proper in this emergency. I am exhausted with fatigue, and must defer particulars until to-morrow—many valuable lives are lost.

I have the honor, &c.

A. HALL, *Maj. Gen.*

ANOTHER VICTORY OVER THE CREEKS.

Extract of a letter from Brig. Gen. Claiborne, to the Secretary of War, dated

Fort Claiborne, East bank of Alabama, 85 miles above Fort Stoddart, January 1st, 1814.

SIR—On the 13th ult. I marched a detachment from this post, with a view of destroying the towns of the inimical Creek Indians on the Alabama, above the mouth of Cahaba; [here the General details the movements of his troops, and adds,] thirty of the enemy were killed; and, judging from every appearance, many were wounded. The loss on our part was 1 corporal killed; one ensign, two sergeants, one corporal and two privates, wounded. We destroyed their town, (Eccancacha,) consisting of 200 houses, and one other town of 60 houses. I have the honor, &c.

F. L. CLAIBORNE, *B. Gen. Volunteers.*

His Ex. *John Armstrong.*

GALLANT DEFENCE AT FORT DEFIANCE.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Floyd, to Maj. Gen. Pinkney, dated

Camp Defiance, 48 miles west of Chatahouchee, January 27, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to acquaint your excellency, that, this morning, at 20 minutes past 5 o'clock, a very

large body of hostile Indians made a deperate attack upon the army under my command. They stole upon the centinels, fired upon them, and, with great impetuosity, rushed upon our lines. In 20 minutes the action became general, and our front, right and left flanks, were closely pressed; but the brave and gallant conduct of the field and line officers, and the firmness of the men, repelled them at every point.

The steady firmness, and incessant fire of Captain Thomas' artillery, and Capt. Adams' riflemen, preserved our front line; both of these companies suffered greatly. The enemy rushed within 30 yards of the artillery; and Capt. Broadnax, who commanded one of the picket guards, maintained his post with great bravery, until the enemy gained his rear; and then cut his way through them to the army. So soon as it became light enough to distinguish objects, I ordered Majors Watson's and Freeman's battalions to wheel up, at right angles, with Majors Booth's and Cleveland's battalions; the order for the charge was promptly obeyed, and the enemy fled in every direction before the bayonet. The signal was given for the charge of the cavalry, who pursued and sabred fifteen of the enemy; who left 37 dead on the field. From the effusion of blood, and the number of head-dresses and war-clubs found, in various directions, their loss must have been considerable, independent of the wounded.

I directed the friendly Indians, with Merriwether's and Ford's rifle companies, accompanied by Captain Hamilton's troop, to pursue them through Calibee swamp, where they were trailed by their blood, but succeeded in overtaking but one of their wounded.

Col. Newman received three balls, in the commencement of the action, which deprived me of the services of that gallant and useful officer. The Assistant Adj. Gen. Narden, was indefatigable in the discharge of his duty, and rendered important services; his horse was wounded under him. The whole of the staff was prompt, and discharged their duty with courage and fidelity; their vigilance, the intrepidity of the officers, and firm-

ness of the men, meet my approbation, and deserve the praise of their country. I have to regret the death of many of my brave fellows, who have found honorable graves, in the voluntary support of their country.

My aid-de-camp, in executing my orders, had his horse killed under him. Gen. Lee and Major Pace, who acted as additional aids, rendered me essential services, with honor to themselves, and usefulness to the cause in which they have embarked. Four waggon and several other horses were killed, and two of the artillery horses were wounded. While I deplore the losses sustained on this occasion, I have the consolation to know that the men, which I have the honor to command, have done their duty.

I, herewith, transmit you a list of the killed and wounded.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN FLOYD, Brig. Gen.

Our loss, in the above action, was 17 whites, and 5 friendly Indians, killed—and 132 whites, and 15 friendly Indians, wounded—total, killed and wounded, 169.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CREEKS.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Jackson, of the Tennessee Volunteers, to Gen. Pinckney, dated

H. Q. Fort Strother, 29th Jan. 1814.

SIR—I had the honor of informing you, in a letter of the 31st ult. forwarded by Mr. M'Candless, (express) of an excursion I contemplated making, still further in the enemy's country, with the new raised volunteers, from Tennessee. I had ordered those troops to form a junction with me, on the 10th instant; but they did not arrive until the 14th. Their number, including officers, was about 800; and, on the 15th, I marched them across the river to graze their horses. On the next day I followed, with the remainder of our force—consisting of the artillery company, with one 6 pound-

er, one company of infantry, of 48 men, two companies of spies, commanded by Captains Gorden and Russel, of about 30 men each, and a company of volunteer officers, headed by Gen. Coffee, who had been abandoned by his men, and who still remained in the field, awaiting the orders of the government—making my force, exclusive of Indians, 930.

The motives which influenced me to penetrate still further into the enemy's country, were many and urgent—the term of service, of the new raised volunteers, was short; and a considerable part of it was expired—they were expensive to the government, and were full of ardor to meet the enemy. The ill effects of keeping soldiers of this description idle, and long stationary, I had been made to feel but too sensibly already. Other causes concurred to make such a movement not only justifiable, but absolutely necessary. I had received a letter from Capt. M'Alpin, of the 5th inst. who commanded at fort Armstrong in the absence of Col. Snodgrass, informing me that 14 or 15 towns of the enemy, situated on the waters of the Talapoosa, were about uniting their forces, and attacking that place, which had been left in a very feeble state of defence. You had, in your letter of the 24th ult. informed me that Gen. Floyd was about to make a movement to the Tallapoose, near its junction with the Coosee; and, in the same letter, had recommended temporary excursions against such of the enemy's towns, or settlements, as might be within striking distance, as well to prevent my men from becoming discontented, as to harrass the enemy—your ideas corresponded exactly with my own; and I was happy in the opportunity of keeping my men engaged, distressing the enemy, and, at the same time, making a diversion to facilitate the operations of Gen. Floyd.

Determined by these and other considerations, I took up the line of march, on the 17th inst; and, on the night of the 18th, encamped at the Talledega fort, where I was joined by between 2 and 300 friendly Indians; 65 of which were Cherokees, the balance Creeks.

Here I received your letter of the 9th inst. stating, that Gen Floyd was expected to make a movement from Cowetau, the next day; and that, in ten days thereafter, he would establish a firm position at Tuckabatchee; and also a letter from Col. Snodgrass, who had returned to fort Armstrong, informing me that an attack was intended to be soon made on that fort, by 900 of the enemy: if I could have hesitated before, I could now hesitate no longer—I resolved to lose no time in meeting this force, which was understood to have been collected from New Yorcau, Oakfuskie, and Ufauley towns, and were concentrated in a bend of the Tallapoose, near the mouth of a creek, called Emuckfau, and on an island below New Yorcau.

On the morning of the 20th, your letter of the 10th instant, forwarded by M'Candless, reached me, at the Hillabee creek; and that night I encamped at Enotochapco, a small Hillabee village, about 12 miles from Emuckfau. Here I began to perceive, very plainly, how little knowledge my spies had of the country, of the situation of the enemy, or of the distance I was from them. The insubordination of the new troops, and the want of skill in most of their officers, also became more and more apparent; but their ardor to meet the enemy was not diminished—and I had a sure reliance upon the guards, and the company of old volunteer officers, and upon the spies—in all 125. My wishes and my duty remained united; and I was determined to effect, if possible, the objects for which the excursion had been undertaken.—On the morning of the 21st I marched from Enotachopco, as direct as I could for the bend of the Tallapoose; and about 2 o'clock, P. M. my spies having discovered two of the enemy, pursued, but could not overtake them. In the evening I fell in with a large trail, which led to a new road, much beaten, and lately travelled. Knowing that I must have arrived within the neighborhood of a strong force, and it being late in the day, I determined to encamp, and reconnoitre the country in the night: I chose the best scite the country would admit, encamp-

ed in a hollow square, sent out my spies and pickets, doubled my centinels, and made the necessary arrangements for a night attack. About 10 o'clock at night, one of the pickets fired at three of the enemy, and killed one—at 11 o'clock, the spies, whom I had sent out, returned with the information, that there was a large encampment of Indians, at the distance of about three miles; who, from their whooping and dancing, seemed to be apprized of our approach. One of these spies, (an Indian,) in whom I had great confidence, assured me that they were carrying off their women and children, and that the warriors would either make their escape, or attack me before day. Being prepared at all points, nothing remained to be done but to await their approach, if they meditated an attack; or to be in readiness, if they did not, to pursue and attack them at daylight. While we were in this state of readiness, the enemy, about 6 o'clock in the morning, commenced a vigorous attack on my left flank, which was vigorously met; the action continued to rage on my left flank, and on the left of my rear, for about half an hour. The brave Gen. Coffee, with Col. Sittler, the Adj. General, and Col. Carroll, the Inspector General, the moment the firing commenced, mounted their horses and repaired to the line, encouraging and animating their men to the performance of their duty. So soon as it became light enough to pursue, the left wing having sustained the heat of the action, and being somewhat weakened, was reinforced by Capt. Ferrill's company of Infantry, and was ordered, and led on to the charge by General Coffee, who was well supported by Col Higgins and the Inspector General, and by all the officers and privates who composed that line. The enemy were routed at every point; and the friendly Indians joining in the pursuit, they were chased about two miles with considerable slaughter. The chase being over, I immediately detached Gen. Coffee, with 400 men, and all the Indian force, to burn their encampment; but it was said, by some, to be fortified. I ordered him, in that event, not to attack it, until the artillery could be sent

forward to reduce it. On viewing the encampment, and its strength, the General thought it most prudent to return to my encampment, and guard the artillery thither: the wisdom of this step was soon discovered; in half an hour after his return to camp, a considerable force of the enemy made its appearance on my right flank, and commenced a brisk fire on a party of men, who had been on picket guard the night before, and were then in search of the Indians they had fired upon, some of whom they believed had been killed. Gen. Coffee immediately requested me to let him take 200 men, and turn their left flank—which I accordingly ordered; but, through some mistake, which I did not then observe, not more than 54 followed him, among whom were the old volunteer officers. With these, however, he immediately commenced an attack on the left flank of the enemy, at which time I ordered 200 of the friendly Indians to fall in upon the right flank of the enemy, and co-operate with the General. This order was promptly obeyed; and, in the moment of its execution, what I expected was realized. The enemy had intended the attack on the right as a feint; and, expecting to direct all my attention thither, meant to attack me again, and with their main force, on my left flank, which they hoped to find weakened and in disorder—they were disappointed. I had ordered the left flank to remain firm to its place; and, the moment the alarm gun was heard in that quarter, I repaired thither, and ordered Capt. Ferrill, part of my reserve, to support it. The whole line met the enemy with astonishing intrepidity; and, having given a few fires, they forthwith charged with great vigor; the effect was immediate and inevitable—the enemy fled with precipitation, and were pursued to a considerable distance by the left flank, and the friendly Indians, with a galling and destructive fire. Col. Carrol, who ordered the charge, led on the pursuit; and Col. Higgins and his regiment, again distinguished themselves. In the mean time, Gen. Coffee was contending with a superior force of the enemy; the Indians, who I had ordered to his

support, and who had set out for this purpose, hearing the firing on the left, had returned to that quarter; and, when the enemy were routed, there entered into the chase. That being now over, I forthwith ordered Jim Fife, who was one of the principal commanders of the friendly Creeks, with one hundred of his warriors, to execute my first order. So soon as he reached Gen. Coffee, the charge was made, and the enemy routed; they were pursued about three miles, and 45 of them slain, who were found. Gen. Coffee was wounded in the body, and his aid-de-camp, A. Donaldson, killed, together with three others. Having brought in and buried the dead, and dressed the wounded, I ordered my camp to be fortified, to be the better prepared to repel any attack which might be made in the night, determined to commence a return march, to fort Strother, the next day; many causes concurred to make such a measure necessary, as I had not set out prepared, or with a view to make a permanent establishment. I considered it worse than useless to advance, and destroy an empty encampment. I had, indeed, hoped to have met the enemy there; but, having met and beaten them a little sooner, I did not think it necessary or prudent to proceed any further—not necessary, because I had accomplished all I expected to effect, by marching to their encampment—and because, if it was proper to contend with, and weaken their forces still farther, this object would be more certainly attained by commencing a return, which, having to them the appearance of a retreat, would inspirit them to pursue me. Not prudent—because of the number of my wounded; of the reinforcements, from below, which the enemy might be expected to receive; of the starving condition of my horses, they having neither had cane nor corn for two days and nights; of the scarcity of supplies for my men, the Indians who joined me at Talledega having drawn none, and being wholly destitute; and because, if the enemy pursued me, as it was likely they would, the diversion in favor of Gen. Floyd would be the more complete and effectual—influenced by these considerations, I commenced my return march at half after 10. on the 23d inst. and was for-

tunate enough to reach Enotachopco before night, having passed, without interruption, a dangerous defile, occasioned by a hurricane. I again fortified my camp; and, having another defile to pass in the morning, across a deep creek, and between two hills, which I had viewed with attention as I passed on, and where I expected I might be attacked, I determined to pass it at another point, and gave directions to my guide and fatigue-men accordingly. My expectation of an attack in the morning was increased by the signs of the night, and with it my caution. Before I moved the wounded from the interior of my camp, I had my front and rear guards formed, as well as my right and left columns, and moved off my centre in regular order, leading down a handsome ridge to Enotachopco creek, at a point where it was clear of reed, except immediately on its margin. I had previously issued a general order, pointing out the manner in which the men were to be formed, in the event of an attack on the front or rear, or on the flanks; and had particularly cautioned the officers to halt, and form accordingly, the instant word should be given.

The front guard had crossed, with part of the flank columns; the wounded were over, and the artillery in the act of entering the creek, when an alarm gun was heard in the rear; I heard it without surprize—and even with pleasure, calculating with the utmost confidence on the firmness of my troops, from the manner in which I had seen them act on the 22d. I had placed Col. Carrol at the head of the centre column of the rear guard; its right column was commanded by Col. Perkins, and its left by Col. Stump. Having chosen the ground, I expected there to have entirely cut off the enemy, by wheeling the right and left columns on their pivot, re-crossing the creek above and below, and falling in upon their flanks and rear. But, to my astonishment and mortification, when the word was given by Col. Carrol, to halt, and form, and a few guns had been fired, I beheld the right and left columns of the rear guard precipitately give way; this shameful retreat was disastrous in the extreme; it drew along with it the greater part of the centre column, leaving not more

than 25 men, who, being formed by Col. Carrol, maintained their ground as long as it was possible to maintain it; and it brought consternation and confusion into the army —a consternation not easily removed; and a confusion which could not easily be restored to order. There was then left, to repulse the enemy, the few who remained of the rear guard, the artillery company, and Captain Russell's company of spies;—they, however, realized, and exceeded my highest expectations. Lieut Armstrong, who commanded the artillery company, in the absence of Capt. Deadrick, (confined by sickness,) ordered them to form, and advance to the top of the hill, whilst he and a few others dragged up the six pounder; never was more bravery displayed than on this occasion: amidst the most galling fire from the enemy, more than ten times their number, they ascended the hill, and maintained their position until their piece was hauled up; when, having levelled it, they poured upon the enemy a fire of grape, re-loaded and fired again—charged, and repulsed them.

The most deliberate bravery was displayed by Constantine Perkins and Craven Jackson, of the artillery, acting as gunners:—in the hurry of the moment, in separating the gun from the limbers, the rammer and picker of the cannon were left tied to the limber; no sooner was this discovered, than Jackson, amidst the galling fire of the enemy, pulled out the ramrod of his musquet, and used it as a picker, primed with a cartridge, and fired the cannon. Perkins having pulled off his bayonet, used his musquet as a rammer, drove down the cartridge; and Jackson, using his former plan, again discharged her. The brave Lieut. Armstrong, just after the first fire of the cannon, with Captain Hamilton, of E. Tennessee, Bradford and M'Gavock, all fell; the Lieutenant exclaiming, as he lay, "my brave fellows, some of you may fall—but save the cannon." About this time, a number crossed the creek and entered into the chase. The brave Capt. Gordon, of the spies, who had rushed from the front, endeavored to turn the left flank of the enemy, in which he partially succeeded; and Col. Carrol, Col. Higgins, and Captains Elliot and Pipkins, pursued the enemy for more than two

miles, who fled in consternation, throwing away their packs, and leaving 26 of their warriors dead on the field. I should do injustice to my feelings if I omitted to mention, that the venerable judge Cocke, at the age of 65, entered into the engagement, continued the pursuit of the enemy with youthful ardor, and saved the life of a fellow-soldier, by killing his savage antagonist.

In these several engagements, our loss was 20 killed, and 75 wounded—4 of whom have since died. The loss of the enemy cannot be accurately ascertained—189 of their warriors were found dead; but this must fall considerably short of the real number killed—their wounded can only be guessed at.

I have the honor, &c.

ANDW. JACKSON, *Maj. Gen.*

AFFAIR ON THE RIVER DE FRENCH.

Copy of a letter from Col. H. Butler, to Gen. Harrison, dated

Detroit, March 7th, 1814.

DEAR SIR—By Lieut Shannon, of the 27th regiment U. S. infantry, I have the honor of informing you, that a detachment of the troops, under my command, led by Captain Holmes, of the 24th infantry, have obtained a signal victory over the enemy.

The affair took place on the 4th inst. about 100 miles from this place, on the river De French. Our force consisted of no more than 160 rangers and mounted infantry. The enemy, from their own acknowledgement, had about 240. The fine light company of Royal Scots is totally destroyed; they led the attack most gallantly, and their commander fell within ten paces of our front line. The light company of the 89th has also suffered severely; one officer of that company fell; one is a prisoner, and another is said to be badly wounded. In killed, wounded, and prisoners, the enemy lost about 84; whilst, on our part, there were but 4 killed, and 4 wounded. The great disparity, in the loss on each side, is to be attributed to

the very judicious position occupied by Capt. Holmes, who compelled the enemy to attack him at great disadvantage—this, even more than his gallantry, merits the laurel.

Capt. Holmes has just returned, and will furnish a detailed account of the expedition, which shall immediately be transmitted to you.

Very respectfully, &c.

H. BUTLER, *Lt. Col. comg. Detroit.*

The enemy's force, as stated by the prisoners, was 256 men.—There was 100 head of cattle taken from the enemy, intended for Long Point or Burlington.

EXPEDITION TO THE TALLAPOOSEE.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Jackson, to Maj. Gen. Pinckney, dated

On the Battle Ground, in the Bend of the Tallapoosee, 28th March, 1814.

SIR—I feel peculiarly happy in being able to communicate to you the fortunate eventuation of my expedition to the Tallapoosee. I reached the bend, near Emucfau, (called, by the whites, the Horse-shoe,) about ten o'clock in the forenoon of yesterday, where I found the strength of the neighboring towns collected; expecting our approach, they had gathered in from Oakfuskee, Oakchaga, New Yauca, Hillibees, the Fish-pond, and Eufaulee towns, to the number, it is said, of 1000. It is difficult to to conceive a situation more eligible for defence, than they had chosen; or one rendered more secure, by the skill with which they had erected their breast-work; it was from 5 to 8 feet high, and extended across the point in such a direction as that a force, approaching it, would be exposed to a double fire, while they lay in perfect security behind; a cannon, planted at one extremity, could have raked it to no advantage.

Determining to exterminate them, I detached General Coffee, with the mounted men, and nearly the whole of the Indian force, early on the morning of yesterday, to

cross the river, about two miles below their encampment, and to surround the bend in such a manner, as that none of them should escape, by attempting to cross the river. With the infantry I proceeded slowly, and in order, along the point of land which led to the front of their breast-work; having planted my cannon (one 6 and one 3 pounder,) on an eminence, at the distance of 150 to 200 yards from it, I opened a very brisk fire, playing upon the enemy with the musquets and rifles, whenever they showed themselves beyond it; this was kept up, with short interruptions, for about two hours, when a part of the Indian force, and Captain Russell's and Lieut. Bean's companies of spies, who had accompanied General Coffee, crossed over in canoes, to the extremity of the bend, and set fire to a few of the buildings which were there situated; they then advanced, with great gallantry, towards the breast-work, and commenced a spirited fire upon the enemy behind it. Finding that this force, notwithstanding the bravery they displayed, was wholly insufficient to dislodge them, and that Gen. Coffee had entirely secured the opposite bank of the river, I now determined to take their works by storm. The men, by whom this was to be effected, had been waiting with impatience to receive their order, and hailed it with acclamation.

The spirit which animated them was a sure augury of the success which was to follow; the history of warfare, I think, furnishes few instances of a more brilliant attack; the regulars, led on by their intrepid and skilful commander, Col Williams, and by the gallant Major Montgomery, soon gained possession of the works, in the midst of a most tremendous fire from behind them; and the militia, of the venerable Gen. Doherty's brigade, accompanied them in the charge, with a vivacity and firmness which would have done honor to regulars. The enemy were completely routed—557 were left dead on the peninsula; and a great number of them were killed by the horsemen, in attempting to cross the river; it is believed that no more than 10 had escaped.

The fighting continued, with some severity, about five hours; but we continued to destroy many of them, who

had concealed themselves under the banks of the river, until we were prevented by the night. This morning we killed 16 which had been concealed. We took 250 prisoners, all women and children except 2 or 3; our loss is 106 wounded and 26 killed. Major M'Intosh, (the Cowetau,) who joined my army with a part of his tribe, greatly distinguished himself. When I get an hour's leisure I will send you a more detailed account. The power of the Creeks is, I think, forever broken. I send you a hasty sketch, taken by the eye, of the situation on which the enemy were encamped, and of the manner in which I approached them.

I have the honor to be, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON, *Major Gen.*

Major General Thomas Pinckney, U. S. army.

AFFAIR AT LA COLLE MILL.

Copy of a letter from Major General Wilkinson to the Secretary of War, dated

Province of Lower Canada, Odell Town,
March 31st, 1814.

SIR—We have had an affair with the enemy, in which our troops have given him another test of firmness and valor.

Pursuant to the designs communicated to you in my last, and to accomplish *your* views, if in my power, I entered Canada yesterday morning, and was met by the enemy near this place about 11 o'clock, whom we forced at every point of attack on the route to La Colle, distant from hence one league, and from St. John's six. We reached the former post about three o'clock, and found there a strong corps in possession of a spacious lofty stone-mill, of which I had received some information. An eighteen pounder had been ordered forward to effect the destruction of this building, but it broke down, and after being repaired, the only road of approach, through a deep forest, was reported to be impracticable to a gun of such weight. An opinion prevailed at the same time with the chief en-

gineer, Major Totten, founded on intelligence previously received, and several of the best informed officers, that an iron twelve would suffice to make a breach; but after a fair and tedious experiment, at three hundred yards distance only, it was discovered our battery could make no impression.

Brigadier Generals Smith and Bissell covered our guns, and Brigadier General Macomb, with a select corps, formed the reserve. The enemy had been reported, from a source considered strictly confidential, to two thousand five hundred strong, and his first attack of my right favored the report from the use he made of Congreve rockets, and other indications of deliberate preparation; the corps, therefore, were held in high order to receive his combined attack. Yet believing in the efficacy of our battery, dispositions had been made to intercept the enemy should he evacuate the post, and to give it the utmost effect, we were obliged to take ground near the margin of the field which encompassed the mill. During the cannonade, which was returned with vivacity by the enemy's gallies, (I presume,) several sorties and desparate charges were made from the mill upon our battery, which were repulsed with incredible coolness by the covering corps, at the expense of some blood and some lives on both sides: it is reported to me that in the last charge a Captain of grenadiers and fifteen men fell together, but I cannot vouch for the fact. Finding all our attempts to make a breach unsuccessful, I withdrew the battery, called in my detachments, and, having removed our dead and wounded and every thing else, fell back to this place about six o'clock.

Where a military corps appears to be universally animated by the same sensibilities, where the only competition is for danger and glory, individual distinctions seem improper except in extraordinary cases—such as the conduct of the officers who commanded our battery yesterday. Captain M'Pherson, of the light artillery, (my military secretary,) impelled by the noble spirit which marks his whole career, asked permission to take part in the operations of the day with his proper arm; he was indulged, and being first for command, took charge of the

pieces which followed the advance and formed our battery, in which he was seconded by Lieutenants Larrabee and Sheldon. On opening his fire he seemed inclined to the opinion he could make an impression on the work, but he soon received a wound under the chin, which he tied up with his handkerchief, and continued at his piece until a second shot, which broke his thigh, brought him to the earth. Larrabee had kept his station until shot through the lungs, and Sheldon kept up the fire until ordered to retire. The conduct of these gentlemen has, from the nature of their duties, been so conspicuously gallant as to attract the admiration of their brethren in arms, and should, I humbly conceive, be distinguished by the executive.

I have sent forward my wounded who can bear the movement to Plattsburg, or Burlington, and those who cannot will be provided for at Champlain.

I would hold this position until I receive further orders were it not for the difficulty of transporting our provisions, and the impossibility to cover the troops; but I shall not retire further than Champlain, which will place us twenty-five miles from St. John's, and forty-two from Montreal.

I cannot close this letter without confessing my obligations to my general and field officers, and to my general staff of every grade, for the able and prompt support I received from them. So small an affair does not merit so tedious a detail; but it warrants the remark that it will produce a degree of self confidence, of reciprocal trust, of harmony and friendly attachments in this corps highly beneficial to the service. It is a lesson of command to the officers, and of obedience to the soldier, worth a whole year's drill of empty parades.

The returns of killed and wounded have not yet been furnished, but they will not exceed 80 or 90, including a captain and 4 subalterns, and this shall be forwarded tomorrow or next day. For the information of their friends you have at foot the names of the wounded officers.

With great respect, &c. JAMES WILKINSON.

The Hon. Secretary of War.

Captain M'Pherson, Lieutenants Larrabee, Green. Parker, and Kerr, wounded.

GENERAL ORDER,

Issued by General Wilkinson, the morning after the affair at La Colle Mill.

H. Q. Odell Town, Province of L. Canada,
March 31st. 1814.

The affair of yesterday is honorable to the troops, and gives them a title to the thanks of the General, and their country. The constancy and courage, exhibited under a tedious and galling fire of the enemy, were exemplary, and would have done credit to the oldest troops in the world. Where every officer and every man evinces the same firmness and intrepidity, the General feels that it would be invidious to particularize. The advance, under Col. Clark and Major Forsyth, the corps under Brig. Generals Smith and Bissel, beat the enemy at every point of attack, and repulsed several desperate charges on our artillery; and the select corps, under Brig. Gen. Macomb, who were panting for the combat, if there had been occasion for their services, would have displayed equal valor. Every man and officer, and every member of the General Staff, manifested the utmost promptitude and decision. The conduct of Capt. M'Pherson and his seconds, Lieutenants Larrabee and Sheldon, who commanded the battery, was so conspicuously gallant, that the army will excuse the general for designating them. The first kept his post until brought to the ground by a second shot; the second until he was grievously wounded: and the third behaved with the utmost intrepidity, and maintained his ground until ordered to bring out the pieces.

Let the meritorious dead be collected, and buried, with the honors of war, in the same grave—let the wounded be cherished with the utmost tenderness, and removed to the hospitals in the rear; and let the troops be immediately completed to sixty rounds of ammunition, and held perfectly ready to meet the enemy, should he venture to advance.

CAPTURE OF THE EPERVIER.

Copy of a letter from Lieutenant Nicholson, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Savannah, May 1st. 1814.

SIR—I have the honor of informing you of my arrival here, in late his B. M. brig Epervier, of eighteen 32 prs. carronades, Capt. Wales, captured by the sloop Peacock, on Friday morning the 29th, off Cape Carnaveral, after an action of 45 minutes, in which time she was much cut up in hull, spars, rigging and sails, with upwards of five feet water in her hold, having the advantage of the weather-gage.

She has lost eight killed, and fifteen wounded—among the latter her first Lieutenant, who has lost his arm; I am happy to say, the Peacock received no material injury—her fore-yard, and two men, slightly wounded; she received not one shot in her hull. The brig had upwards of 100,000 dollars on board.

I have the honor, &c.

JOHN B. NICHOLSON.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

FURTHER ACCOUNT.

Extract of letters from Captain Warrington to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Sloop Peacock, at Sea, lat. 27, 47, long. 80, 9, 29th April, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that we have this morning captured, after an action of 42 minutes, his majesty's brig Epervier, rating and mounting eighteen 32lb. carronades, with 128 men, of whom 8 were killed and 13 wounded, (according to the best information we could obtain.) Among the latter is her 1st Lieut. who has lost an arm, and received a severe splinter wound on the hip.—Not a man in the Peacock was killed, and only two wounded; neither dangerously so. The fate of the Epervier would have been determined in much less time, but for

the circumstance of our fore-yard being totally disabled by two round shot in the starboard quarter from her first broadside, which entirely deprived us of the use of our fore and fore-top sails, and compelled us to keep the ship large throughout the remainder of the action. This, with a few top-mast and top-gallant back stays cut away, a few shot through our sails, is the only injury the Peacock has sustained. Not a round shot touched our hull; our masts and spars are as sound as ever. When the enemy struck he had five feet water in his hold, his maintop-mast was over the side, his main-boom shot away, his foremast cut nearly in two and tottering, his fore rigging and stays shot away, his bowsprit badly wounded, and 45 shot holes in his hull, 20 of which were within a foot of his water line. By great exertion we got her in sailing order just as the dark came on.

"In fifteen minutes after the enemy struck, the Peacock was ready for another action, in every respect but her fore-yard, which was sent down, fished, and had the fore-sail set again in 45 minutes—such was the spirit and activity of our gallant crew. The Epervier had under her convoy an English hermaphrodite brig, a Russian and a Spanish ship, which all hauled their wind and stood to the E. N. E. I had determined upon pursuing the former, but found that it would not answer to leave our prize in her then crippled state, and the more particularly so, as we found she had $120,000 in specie, which we soon transferred to this sloop."

"To the unwearied and indefatigable attention of Lieutenant Nicholson, (1st,) in organizing and training the crew, the success of this action is in a great measure to be attributed. I have confided greatly in him, and have never found my confidence misplaced. For judgment, coolness, and decision in times of difficulty, few can surpass him. This is the second action in which he has been engaged this war, and in both he has been successful; his greatest pride is to earn a commander's commission by fighting for, instead of *heiring* it.

From Lieutenant Henly, (2d) and Lieutenant Voorhees, (acting 3d, who has been also twice successfully engaged,) I

received every assistance that zeal, ardor, and experience could afford; the fire from their divisions was terrible, and directed with the greatest precision and coolness. In sailing-master Percival, whose great wish and pride it is to obtain a lieutenant's commission, and whose unremitting and constant attention to duty, added to his professional knowledge, entitle him to it in my opinion, I found an able as well as willing assistant; he handled the ship as if he had been working her into a roadstead. Mr. David Cole, acting carpenter, I have also found such an able and valuable man in his occupation that I must request, in the most earnest manner, that he may receive a warrant; for I feel confident that to his uncommon exertion we, in a great measure, owe the getting our prize into port. From 11 A. M. until 6 P. M. he was over her side stopping shot holes, on a grating; and when the ordinary resources failed of success, his skill soon supplied him with efficient ones. Mr. Philip Myers, master's mate, has also conducted himself in such a manner as to warrant my recommendation of him as a master; he is a seaman, navigator, and officer—his family in New-York is respected, and he would prove an acquisition to the service. My clerk, Mr. John S. Townsend, is anxious to obtain through my means a midshipman's warrant, and has taken pains to qualify himself for it by volunteering, and constantly performing a midshipman's duty—indeed I have but little use for a clerk, and he is as great a proficient as any of the young midshipmen, the whole of whom behaved in a manner that was pleasing to me, and must be gratifying to you, as it gives an earnest of what they will make in time; three only have been to sea before, and one only in a man of war, yet were they as much at home and as much disposed to exert themselves as any officer in the ship. Lieutenant Nicholson speaks in high terms of the conduct of Messrs. Greeves and Rodgers, (midshipmen) who were in the prize with him."

I have the honor, &c.

L. WARRINGTON.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

AFFAIR AT OSWEGO.

Copy of a letter from Maj. General Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Sacket's Harbor, May 12, 1814.

SIR—Enclosed is an abstract from the report of Lieut. Col. Mitchell, of the affair at Oswego. Being well satisfied with the manner in which the Colonel executed my orders, and with the evidence given of steady discipline, and gallant conduct, on the part of the troops, I have noticed them in the general order, a copy of which is enclosed.

The enemy's object was the naval and military stores deposited at the falls, 13 miles in rear of the fort—these were protected. The stores, at the fort and village, were not important.

I am, &c.

JACOB BROWN, *Maj. Gen.*

COL. MITCHELL's REPORT.

I informed you of my arrival at fort Oswego, on the 30th ult. This post being but occasionally, and not recently occupied by regular troops, was in a bad state of defence. Of cannon, we had but five old guns, three of which had lost their trunnions; what could be done, in the way of repair, was effected; new platforms were laid; the gun-carriages put in order, and decayed pickets replaced. On the 5th inst. the British naval force, consisting of 4 large ships, three brigs, and a number of gun, and other boats, were descried at revallie-beating, about 7 miles from the fort. Information was immediately given to Capt. Woolsey, of the navy, (who was at Oswego village,) and to the neighboring militia. It being uncertain on what side of the river the enemy would land; and my force (290 effectives,) being too small to bear division, I ordered the tents, in store, to be pitched on the village side, while I occupied the other with my whole force; it is probable that this artifice had its effect, and determined the enemy to

attack where, from appearances, they expected the least opposition. About 1 o'clock the fleet approached—fifteen boats, large, and crowded with troops, at a given signal, moved slowly to the shore; these were preceded by gun-boats, sent to rake the woods, and cover the landing, while the larger vessels opened a fire upon the fort. Capt. Boyle and Lieut. Legate, (so soon as the debarking boats got within range of our shot,) opened upon them a very successful fire from the shore-battery, and compelled them to retire; they at length returned to the ships, and the whole stood off from the shore for better anchorage. One of the enemy's boats, which had been deserted, was taken up by us, and some others by the militia; the first mentioned was 60 feet long, carried 36 oars and 3 sails, and could accommodate 150 men. She had received a ball through her bow, and was nearly filled with water.

Piquet guards were stationed at different points, and we lay on our arms all night.

At day-break, on the 6th, the fleet appeared, bearing up under easy sail. The Wolfe, &c. took a position directly against the fort and batteries, and for three hours kept up a heavy fire of grape, &c. Finding that the enemy had effected a landing, I withdrew my small disposable force into the rear of the fort, and with two companies, (Romayne's and Melvin's,) met their advancing columns, while the other companies engaged the flanks of the enemy. Lieut. Pearce, of the navy, and some seamen, joined in the attack, and fought with their characteristic bravery. We maintained our ground about 30 minutes, and as long as consisted with my further duty of defending the public stores deposited at the falls, which, no doubt, formed the principal object of the expedition, on the part of the enemy. Nor was this movement made precipitately: I halted within four hundred yards of the fort; Capt. Romayne's company formed the rear guard; and, remaining with it, I marched to this place in good order, destroying the bridges in my rear. The enemy landed 600 of De Watteville's regiment, 600 marines, two companies of the Glengary corps, and 350 seamen.

Gen. Drummond and Com. Yeo were the land and naval commanders; they burned the old barracks, and evacuated the fort about 3 o'clock in the morning of the 7th. Our loss, in killed, is 6—wounded, 38—missing, 25—total, 69. The enemy's loss is much greater. Deserters, and citizens of our's (taken prisoners, and afterwards released,) state their killed at 64, and wounded in proportion. I cannot close this dispatch without speaking of the dead and the living of my detachment: Lieut. Blaney, a young man of much promise, was unfortunately killed; his conduct, in the action, was highly meritorious. Capt. Boyle and Lieut. Legate merit my highest approbation; and, indeed, I want language to express my admiration of their gallant conduct. The subalterns, M'Comb, Ansart, Ring, Robb, Earle, M'Clintock, and Newkirk, performed well their several parts.

It would be injustice, were I not to acknowledge and report the zeal, and patriotism, evinced by the militia, who arrived at a short notice, and were anxious to be useful.

I have the honor, &c.

J. MITCHELL, *Lieut. Col.*

GENERAL ORDERS.

Major-General Brown has the satisfaction of announcing, to the troops of his division, that the detachment, under the command of Lieut. Col. Mitchell, of the corps of artillery, have, by their gallant, and highly military conduct, on the 5th and 6th inst. gained a name in arms, worthy the nation they serve, and the cause they support. For nearly two days they maintained an unequal contest, against ten times their own number, and but yielded their post, when the interest of their country made that measure necessary. The companies composing this gallant detachment, were Boyle's, Romayne's, M'Intire's, and Pierce's, of the heavy artillery, Melvin's, of the light artillery, and a few sea-

men, under the command of Lieut. Pearce, of the navy —in all, less than 300 men. The enemy's force, by land and water, exceeded three thousand.

AFFAIR AT SANDY CREEK.

Extract of a letter from Brig. General Gaines, to the Secretary of War, dated

Sacket's Harbor, May 31, 1814.

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, Major Appling's report of the gallant affair, which took place yesterday morning, between a detachment of the 1st rifle regiment, and Oneida Indians under his command, and a detachment from the British fleet, consisting of sailors and marines, commanded by Capt. Popham, of the royal navy.

Major Appling had been ordered to co-operate with Capt. Woolsey, of the navy, in escorting the cannon and naval stores from Oswego, destined for the fleet here, on board of a flotilla of barges; and, after having gotten safely into Sandy Creek, 16 miles S. W. of this place, they were pursued, up the creek, by the enemy's force, which they met, and beat, and took, after an action of 10 minutes, without any other loss, on our part, than one rifleman wounded.

MAJOR APPLING's REPORT.

Copy of a letter from Major Appling, to Brig. Gen. Gaines, dated

Sandy Creek, May 30, 1814.

SIR—Presuming that you have already been made acquainted with the result of the affair of this day, I consider it necessary only to furnish you with the return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, on the part of the enemy, which is as follows: 133 prisoners, sailors and marines—wounded 28 ditto—killed 13 ditto, and 1 Midshipman, with two Post-Captains, four Lieutenants of the navy, prisoners; and two Lieutenants of

marines dangerously wounded, and prisoners. The dead will receive all the honors due to unfortunate soldiers—the wounded remain at this place, waiting the arrival of medical aid from the Harbor; the prisoners have been marched into the country, and to-morrow they will proceed for the Harbor. The enemy's boats also fell into my hands, consisting of two gun-boats and five barges, some of which carried howitzers. Of 120 men, and a few Indians, my loss does not exceed one man, of the rifle corps, wounded.

I cannot sufficiently extol the conduct of the officers who served under me—who were Lieutenants M'Intosh, Calhoun, Macfarland, Armstrong and Smith, and Ensign Austin.

I have the honor, &c.

D. APPLING.

Brig. Gen. Gaines.

COM. BARNEY's FLOTILLA.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Barney, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Sunday, 26th June, 1814—10, *A. M.*

SIR—This morning, at 4, a combined attack of the artillery, marine corps, and flotilla, was made upon the enemy's two frigates, at the mouth of the creek; after two hours engagement, they got under way, and made sail down the river; they are now warping round Point-Patience, and I am moving up the Patuxent, with my flotilla. My loss is acting Midshipman Asquith killed, and ten others, killed and wounded—[3 killed, and 8 wounded.]

Mr. Blake, the bearer of this, was a volunteer in my barge—he will give you every other information.

With respect, &c.

JOSHUA BARNEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

PROCEEDINGS ON LAKE ONTARIO.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. Ship Superior, Sacket's Harbor, June 20, 1814.

SIR—Knowing that the enemy was constantly receiving naval and military stores at Kingston, by the St. Lawrence, I thought it might be practicable to surprize and capture a brigade of boats, with stores on board, and either destroy or bring them off; for this purpose, I directed Lieutenant Gregory to take three gigs, with only their crew, and one settee in each boat, and proceed down the St Lawrence—secrete himself on some of the islands, and watch a favorable opportunity to surprise a brigade of loaded boats, and either bring them off or destroy them, as circumstances would point out.

Lieut. Gregory left here, with his party, on the evening of the 15th inst. and proceeded to the "Thousand Islands," where he hauled his boats on shore, and concealed them—saw two brigades of boats pass; one up the river with troops, of course too strong for our little party; the other down the river empty, and not worth taking.

Lieut. Gregory found the enemy had gun-boats stationed between Kingston and Prescott, within about six miles of each other; and that they had a telegraph, and look out, in almost every high island, so that they convey intelligence with great expedition. Yesterday morning, between 9 and 10 o'clock, Lieut. Gregory, finding himself discovered, and a gun-boat close to him, he instantly formed the bold design to board her, which he did, and carried her without losing a man; one of the enemy was badly wounded.

She proved to be the fine gun-boat Black-snake, or No. 9—mounted an 18 pounder, and manned with 18 men, chiefly royal marines, (a list of which is enclosed.) Lieut. Gregory manned his prize and proceeded up the St. Lawrence; but was soon discovered and pursued by a very large gun-boat, mounting 2 heavy guns,

and rowed with upwards of 40 oars, which overhauled him fast; he kept possession of his prize until the enemy threw their shot over him—he then, very reluctantly, (but I think properly,) took all his prisoners out, and scuttled the gun-boat, which sunk instantly, and escaped the enemy, although so heavily loaded. Lieut. Gregory arrived safe this morning, with all his prisoners.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

CAPT. PORTER's CRUISE.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Porter, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Essex Junior, July 3d, 1814—*At Sea.*

SIR—I have done myself the honor to address you, repeatedly, since I left the Delaware; but have scarcely a hope, that one of my letters have reached you—therefore, consider it necessary, to give you a brief history of my proceedings since that period.

I sailed from the Delaware, on the 27th Oct. 1812, and repaired, with all diligence, (agreeably to instructions from Com. Bainbridge,) to Port Praya, Fernando de Noronho, and Cape Frio, and arrived at each place on the day appointed to meet him. On my passage, from Port Praya to Fernando de Noronho, I captured his B. M. packet Nocton; and, after taking out about eleven thousand pounds sterling, in specie, sent her, under command of Lieut. Finch, for America. I cruised off Rio de Janeiro, and about Cape Frio, until the 12th of Jannary, 1813, hearing frequently of the commodore, by vessels from Bahia; I here captured but one schooner, with hides and tallow, and sent her into Rio. The Montague (Admiral's ship) being in pursuit of me, my provisions now getting short, and finding it necessary now to look out for a supply, to enable me to meet the Commodore by the 1st of April, off

St. Helena, I proceeded to the island of St. Catharine's, (the last place of rendezvous on the coast of Brazil,) as the most likely to supply my wants, and, at the same time, afford me that secrecy necessary to enable me to elude the British ships of war, on the coast, and expected there—I here could procure only wood, water and rum, and a few bags of flour; and hearing of the Commodore's action with the Java, the capture of the Hornet, by the Montague, and of a considerable augmentation of the British force, on the coast, and of several being in pursuit of me, I found it necessary to get to sea as soon as possible. I now, agreeably to the Commodore's plan, stretched to the southward, scouring the coast as far as Rio de la Plata. I heard that Buenos Ayres was in a state of starvation, and could not supply our wants, and that the government of Monteviedo was very inimical to us. The Commodore's instructions, now, left it completely discretionary with me, what course to pursue; and I determined on following that which had not only met his approbation, but the approbation of the then Secretary of the Navy. I accordingly shaped my course for the Pacific; and, after suffering greatly, from short allowance of provisions, and heavy gales off Cape Horn, (for which my ship and men were illy provided) I arrived at Valparaiso on the 14th March, 1813; I here took in as much jerked beef, and other provisions, as my ship would conveniently stow, and ran down the coast of Chili and Peru—in this track I fell in with a Peruvian corsair, which had on board 24 Americans, (as prisoners,) the crews of two whale-ships, which she had taken on the coast of Chili. The Captain informed me, that, as the allies of Great Britain, they would capture all they should meet with, in expectation of a war between Spain and the United States. I consequently threw all his guns and ammunition into the sea, liberated the Americans, wrote a respectful letter to the Vice-Roy, explaining the cause of my proceedings, which I delivered to her Captain—I then proceeded for Lima, and re-captured one of the vessels, as she was entering the port; from thence I

proceeded for the Gallapagos islands, where I cruised from the 17th of April until the 3d of October, 1813, during which time I touched only once on the coast of America, which was for the purpose of procuring a supply of fresh water, as none is to be found among those islands, which are, perhaps, the most barren and desolate of any known. While among this groupe, I captured the following British ships, employed chiefly in the spermaceti whale fishery, viz. Letters of Marque Montezuma, 270 tons, 21 men, 2 guns; Policy, 175 tons, 26 men, 10 guns, pierced for 18; Georgiana, 280 tons, 25 men, 6 guns, pierced for 18; Greenwich, 338 tons, 25 men, 10 guns, pierced for 20; Atlantic, 355 tons, 24 men, 8 guns, pierced for 20; Rose, 220 tons, 21 men, 8 guns, pierced for 20; Hector, 270 tons, 25 men, 11 guns, pierced for 20; Catharine, 270 tons, 29 men, 8 guns, pierced for 18; Seringapatam, 357 tons, 31 men, 14 guns, pierced for 26; Charlton, 274 tons, 21 men, 10 guns, pierced for 18; New-Zealander, 259 tons, 23 men, 8 guns, pierced for 18; Sir A. Hammond, 301 tons, 31 men, 12 guns, pierced for 18—making a total of 3465 tons, 302 men, and 107 guns. As some of those ships were captured by boats, and others by prizes, my officers and men had several opportunities of shewing their gallantry.

The Rose and Charlton were given up to the prisoners. The Hector, Catharine, and Montezuma, I sent to Valparaiso, where they were laid up. The Policy, Georgiana, and New-Zealander, I sent for America. The Greenwich I kept as a store-ship, to contain the stores of my other prizes, necessary for us; and the Atlantic, now called the Essex Junior, I equipped with 20 guns, and gave command of her to Lieut. Downs.

Lieut. Downs had convoyed the prizes to Valparaiso, and on his return brought me letters, informing me that a squadron, under the command of Commodore James Hillyar, consisting of the frigate Phœbe, of 36 guns, the Racoon and Cherub, sloops of war, and a store-ship, of 20 guns, had sailed on the 6th of July, for this sea. The Racoon and Cherub had been seeking

me, for some time, on the coast of Brazil; and, on their return from their cruise, joined the squadron sent in search of me to the Pacific. My ship, as it may be supposed, after being near a year at sea, required some repairs, to put her in a state to meet them; which I determined to do, and bring them to action, if I could meet them on nearly equal terms. I proceeded, now, in company with the remainder of my prizes, to the island of Nooaheevah, or Madison's Island, lying in the Washington groupe, discovered by Captain Ingraham, of Boston; here I caulked, and completely overhauled my ship; made for her a new set of water-casks, her old ones being entirely decayed; and took on board, from my prizes, provisions and stores for upwards of 4 months, and sailed for the coast of Chili, on the 12th December, 181:_ Previous to sailing, I secured the Seringapatam, Greenwich, and Sir A. Hammond, under the guns of a battery, which I erected for their protection—(after taking possession of this fine island for the U. States, and establishing the most friendly intercourse with the natives,)—I left them under the charge of Lieut. Gamble, of the marines, with 21 men, with orders to repair to Valparaiso, after a certain period.

I arrived on the coast of Chili, on the 12th of January, 1814—looked into Conception and Valparaiso; found, at both places, only 3 English vessels, and learned that the squadron, which sailed from Rio de Janeiro for that sea, had not been heard of since their departure, and were supposed to be lost, in endeavoring to double Cape Horn.

I had completely broken up the British navigation in the Pacific; the vessels which had not been captured by me, were laid up, and dare not venture out. I had afforded the most ample protection to our own vessels, which were, on my arrival, very numerous, and unprotected.—The valuable whale fishery there, is entirely destroyed; and the actual injury we have done them, may be estimated at two and a half millions of dollars, independent of the expence of vessels in search of me. They have furnished me amply with sails, cordage, cables, anchors, provisions, medicines, and stores of every description; and the slops, on board them, have furnished cloathing for the

seamen. We had, in fact, lived on the enemy, since I had been in that sea; every prize having proved a well found store-ship for me, I had not yet been under the necessity of drawing bills on the department for any object, and had been enabled to make considerable advances to my officers and crew, on account of pay.

I had done all the injury, that could be done the British commerce in the Pacific, and still hoped to signalize my cruise by something more splendid, before leaving that sea. I thought it not improbable that Commodore Hillyar might have kept his arrival a secret; and believing that he would seek me at Valparaiso, as the most likely place to find me, I therefore determined to cruise about that place; and, should I fail of meeting him, hoped to be compensated by the capture of some merchant ships, said to be expected from England.

The Phœbe, agreeably to my expectation, came to seek me at Valparaiso, where I was anchored with the Essex, my armed prize, the Essex Junior, under the command of Lieut. Downs, on the look-out, off the Harbor; but, contrary to the course I thought he would pursue, Commodore Hillyar brought with him the Cherub sloop of war, mounting 28 guns, and a complement of 180 men. The force of the Phœbe is, as follows:—30 long 18 pounders, sixteen 32 prs. carronades, one howitzer, and six 3 pounders, in the tops—in all, 53 guns, and a complement of 320 men—making a force of 81 guns, and 500 men; in addition to which, they took on board the crew of an English letter of marque, laying in port. Both ships had picked crews, and were sent into the Pacific, in company with the Racoon, of 22 guns, and a store-ship, of 20 guns, for the express purpose of seeking the Essex, and were prepared with flags, bearing the motto—"God and country; British sailors' best rights; traitors offend both"—this was intended as a reply to my motto—"Free trade and sailor's rights"—under the erroneous impression that my crew were chiefly Englishmen, or to counteract its effect on their own crews. The force of the Essex was 46 guns—forty 32 pr. carronades, and six long 12's; and her crew, which had been much reduced by prizes, amounted

only to 255 men; the Essex Junior, which was intended chiefly as a store-ship, mounted 20 guns—ten 18 pr. carronades, and ten short 6's, with only 60 men on board.—In reply to their motto, I wrote at my mizen—"God, our country, and liberty; tyrants offend them."

On getting their provisions on board, they went off the port, for the purpose of blockading me, where they cruised for near six weeks; during which time I endeavored to provoke a challenge, and frequently, but ineffectually, to bring the Phœbe, alone, to action—first with both my ships, afterwards with my single ship, with both crews on board. I was several times under way, and ascertained that I had greatly the advantage in point of sailing, and once succeeded in closing within gun-shot of the Phœbe, and commenced a fire on her—when she ran down for the Cherub, which was two and a half miles to the leeward; this excited some surprise, and expressions of indignation, as, previous to my getting under way, she hove too off the port, hoisted her motto-flag, and fired a gun to windward.

Com. Hillyar seemed determined to avoid a contest with me, on nearly equal terms; and, from his extreme prudence, in keeping both his ships, ever after, constantly within hail of each other, there were no hopes of any advantages to my country, from a longer stay in port. I therefore determined to put to sea, the first opportunity which should offer; and I was the more strongly induced to do so, as I had gained certain intelligence that the Tagus, rating 38, and two other frigates, had sailed for that sea, in pursuit of me; and I had reason to expect the arrival of the Racoon, from the N. W. coast of America, where she had been sent for the purpose of destroying our fur establishment, on the Columbia. A rendezvous was appointed for the Essex Junior, and every arrangement made for sailing; and I intended to let them chase me off, to give the Essex Junior an opportunity of escaping. On the 28th of March, the day after this determination was formed, the wind came on to blow fresh from the southward, when I parted my larboard cable, and dragged my starboard anchor directly out to sea—not a moment was

to be lost in getting sail on the ship—the enemy were close in with the point, forming the west side of the bay; but, on opening them, I saw a prospect of passing to windward—when I took in my top-gallant sails, which were set over single reefed top-sails, and braced up for this purpose; but, on rounding the point, a heavy squall struck the ship, and carried away her main top-mast, preciptating the men, who were aloft, into the sea, who were drowned. Both ships now gave chase to me, and I endeavored, in my disabled state, to gain the port; but, finding I could not recover the common anchorage, I ran close into a small bay, about three-fourths of a mile to leeward of the battery, on the east side of the harbor, and let go my anchor within pistol-shot of the shore, where I intended to repair my damages, as soon as possible. The enemy continued to approach, and showed an evident intention of attacking, regardless of the neutrality of the place where I was anchored; and the caution they observed, in their approach to the attack of the crippled Essex, was truly ridiculous, as was their display of their motto-flags, and the number of jacks, at all their mast-heads. I, with as much expedition as circumstances would admit of, got my ship ready for action, and endeavored to get a spring on my cable; but had not succeeded when the enemy, at 54 minutes after 3, P. M. made his attack; the Phœbe placing herself under my stern, and the Cherub on my starboard bow; but the Cherub, soon finding her situation a hot one, bore up, and ran under my stern also, where both ships kept up a hot raking fire. I had got 3 long 12 pounders out of the stern ports, which were worked with so much bravery and skill, that, in half an hour, we so disabled both, as to compel them to haul off, to repair damages. In the course of this firing, I had, by the great exertions of Mr. Ed. Barnwell, the acting sailing-master, assisted by Mr. Linscott, the boatswain, succeeded in getting springs on our cable, at three different times; but the fire of the enemy was so excessive, that before we could get our broadside to bear, they were shot away, and thus rendered useless to us. My ship had received many injuries, and several had been killed and wounded;

but my brave officers and men, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances under which we were brought to action, and the powerful force opposed to us, were no ways discouraged; all appeared determined to defend their ship to the last extremity, and to die in preference to a shameful surrender.

Our gaff, with the ensign and motto-flag at the mizen, had been shot away; but "Free trade and sailors' rights" continued to fly, at the fore—our ensign was replaced by another; and, to guard against a similar event, an ensign was made fast in the mizen rigging, and several jacks were hoisted in different parts of the ship. The enemy soon repaired his damages for a fresh attack: he now placed himself, with both his ships, on my starboard quarter, out of the reach of my carronades, and where my stern guns could not be brought to bear; he there kept up a most galling fire, which it was out of my power to return—when I saw no prospect of injuring him without getting under way, and becoming the assailant. My top-sail sheets, and haliards, were all shot away, as well as the jib and fore top-mast stay-sail haliards; the only rope not cut, was the flying-jib haliards; and that being the only sail I could set, I caused it to be hoisted, my cable to be cut, and ran down on both ships, with an intention of laying the Phœbe on board. The firing, on both sides, was now tremendous; I had let fall my fore-top sail and fore-sail; but the want of tacks and sheets rendered them almost useless to us; yet we were enabled, for a short time, to close with the enemy; and although our decks were now strewed with dead, and our cock-pit filled with wounded; although our ship had been several times on fire, and was rendered a perfect wreck, we were still encouraged to hope to save her, from the circumstance of the Cherub, from her crippled state, being compelled to haul off. She did not return to close action again, although she had it, apparently, in her power to do so; but kept up a distant firing, with her long guns. The Phœbe, from our disabled state, was enabled, however, by edging off, to choose the distance which best suited her long guns, and kept up a tremendous fire on us, which mowed

down my brave companions by the dozen; many of my guns had been rendered useless by the enemy's shot, and many of them had their whole crews destroyed—we manned them again, from those which were disabled; and one gun, in particular, was three times manned—15 men were slain, at it, in the course of the action! but, strange as it may appear, the Captain of it escaped with only a slight wound. Finding that the enemy had it in his power to choose his distance, I now gave up all hopes of closing with him; and, as the wind, for the moment, seemed to favour the design, I determined to endeavor to run her on shore, land my men, and destroy her; every thing seemed to favor my wishes—we had approached the shore, within musquet-shot, and I had no doubt of succeeding, when, in an instant, the wind shifted from the land, and payed our head down on the Phœbe, where we were again exposed to a dreadful raking fire. My ship was now totally unmanageable; yet, as her head was toward the enemy, and he to leeward of me, I still hoped to be able to board him. At this moment, Lieut. Commandant Downs came on board to receive my orders, under the impression that I should soon be a prisoner; he could be of no use to me in the then wretched state of the Essex; and finding, (from the enemy's putting his helm up,) that my last attempt at boarding would not succeed, I directed him to return to his own ship, to be prepared for defending and destroying her, in case of attack; he took with him several of my wounded, leaving three of his boat's crew on board, to make room for them. The Cherub now had an opportunity of distinguishing herself, by keeping up a hot fire on him, during his return. The slaughter, on board my ship, had now become horrible; the enemy continuing to rake us, and we unable to bring a gun to bear. I therefore directed a hawser to be bent to the sheet anchor, and the anchor to be cut from the bows, to bring her head round—this succeeded—we again got our broadside to bear; and, as the enemy was much crippled, and unable to hold his own, I have no doubt he would soon have drifted out of gun-shot, before he discovered we had anchored, had not the hawser unfortunately part-

ed. My ship had taken fire several times, during the action; but alarmingly so, forward and aft, at this moment —the flames were bursting up each hatch-way, and no hopes were entertained of saving her; our distance from the shore did not exceed three quarters of a mile, and I hoped many of my brave crew would be able to save themselves, should the ship blow up, as I was informed the fire was near the magazine—and the explosion of a large quantity of powder below, served to increase the horrors of our situation. Our boats were destroyed by the enemy's shot; I therefore directed those who could swim, to jump overboard, and endeavor to gain the shore. Some reached it, some were taken by the enemy, and some perished in the attempt; but most preferred sharing, with me, the fate of the ship. We, who remained, now turned our attention wholly to extinguishing the flames: and, when we had succeeded, went again to our guns, where the firing was kept up for some minutes; but the crew had, by this time, become so weakened, that they all declared to me the impossibility of making further resistance; and entreated me to surrender my ship to save the wounded, as all further attempt at opposition must prove ineffectual—almost every gun being disabled by the destruction of their crews. I now sent for the officers of divisions, to consult them; but, what was my surprise, to find only acting Lieut. Stephen D. M'Knight remaining, (who confirmed the report respecting the condition of the guns, on the gun-deck; those on the spar-deck were not in a better state.)

Lieut. Wilmer, after fighting most gallantly, throughout the action, had been knocked overboard, by a splinter, while getting the sheet anchor from the bows, and was drowned. Acting Lieut. John G. Cowell had lost a leg; Ed. Barnwell, acting sailing-master, had been carried below, after receiving two severe wounds, one in the breast, and one in the face; and acting Lieut. W. H. Odenheimer had been knocked overboard, from the quarter, an instant before, and did not regain the ship until after the surrender. I was informed that the cock-pit, the

steerage, the ward-room, and the birth-deck, could contain no more wounded—that the wounded were killed while the surgeons were dressing them; and that, unless something was speedily done to prevent it, the ship would soon sink, from the number of shot-holes in her bottom; and on sending for the carpenter, he informed me that all his crew had been killed or wounded; and that he had once been over the side, to stop the leaks, when his slings had been shot away, and it was with difficulty he was saved from drowning. The enemy, from the smoothness of the water, and the impossibility of our reaching him with our carronades, and the little apprehension that was excited by our fire, which had now become much slackened, was enabled to take aim at us, as at a target; his shot never missed our hull; and my ship was cut up in a manner, which was, perhaps, never before witnessed—in fine, I saw no hopes of saving her; and, at 20 minutes after 6, P. M. gave the painful order to strike the colors. Seventy-five men, including officers, were all that remained, of my whole crew, after the action, capable of doing duty; and many of them severely wounded, some of whom have since died. The enemy still continued his fire, and my brave, though unfortunate companions, were still falling about me. I directed an opposite gun to be fired, to shew them we intended no further resistance; but they did not desist—four men were killed at my side, and others in different parts of the ship. I now believed he intended to show us no quarter, and that it would be as well to die with our flag flying as struck, and was on the point of again hoisting it, when, about ten minutes after hauling the colors down, he ceased firing.

I cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of the conduct of those engaged, for such an unparalleled length of time, under such circumstances, with me, in the arduous and unequal contest. Let it suffice to say, that more bravery, skill, patriotism, and zeal, were never displayed on any occasion. Every one seemed determined to die in defence of their much loved country's cause; and nothing, but views of humanity, could ever have reconciled them to the surrender of the ship; they remembered their

wounded and helpless shipmates below. To acting Lieutenants M'Knight and Odenheimer, I feel much indebted, for their great exertions and bravery throughout the action, in fighting, and encouraging the men at their divisions; for the dexterous management of the long guns, and for their promptness in re-manning their guns as their crews were slaughtered. The conduct of that brave and heroic officer, acting Lieut. John G. Cowell, who lost his leg in the latter part of the action, excited the admiration of every man in the ship; and after being wounded, would not consent to be taken below, until loss of blood rendered him insensible. Mr. Edward Barnwell, acting sailing-master, whose activity and courage was equally conspicuous, returned on deck, after his first wound; and remained, after receiving his second, until fainting with loss of blood. Mr. Samuel B. Johnson, who had joined me the day before, and acted as marine officer, conducted himself with great bravery, and exerted himself in assisting at the long guns; the musquetry, after the first half hour, being useless, from our long distance.

Mr. M. W. Bostwick, whom I had appointed acting purser of the Essex Junior, and who was on board my ship, did the duties of aid, in a manner which reflects on him the highest honor; and Midshipmen Isaacs, Farragut, and Ogden, as well as acting Midshipmen James Terry, James R. Lyman, and Samuel Duzenbury, and master's mate William Pierce, exerted themselves in the performance of their respective duties, and gave an earnest of their value to the service; the three first are too young to recommend for promotion—the latter, I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, as well as the acting Lieutenants, and Messrs. Barnwell, Johnson, and Bostwick.

We have been unfortunate, but not disgraced; the defence of the Essex has not been less honorable to her officers and crew, than the capture of an equal force; and I now consider my situation less unpleasant than that of Com. Hillyar, who, in violation of every principle of honor and generosity, and regardless of the rights of nations, attacked the Essex, in her crippled state, within pistol-shot of a *neutral* shore—when, for six weeks, I had daily

offered him fair and honorable combat, on terms greatly to his advantage; the blood of the slain must be on his head; and he has yet to reconcile his conduct to heaven, to his conscience, and to the world. The annexed extract of a letter from Commodore Hillyar, which was written previous to his returning me my sword, will show his opinion of our conduct.

My loss has been dreadfully severe—58 killed, (or have since died of their wounds,) and, among them, Lieut. Cowell—39 were severely wounded; 27 slightly, and 31 are missing—making, in all, 154 killed, wounded, and missing.

The professional knowledge of Doctor Richard Hoffman, acting surgeon, and Doctor Alexander Montgomery, acting surgeon's mate, added to their assiduity, and the benevolent attentions and assistance of Mr. D. P. Adams, the chaplain, saved the lives of many of the wounded; those gentlemen have been indefatigable in their attentions to them; the two first I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, and the latter to the notice of the department.

I must, in justification of myself, observe, that with our six 12 pounders only, we fought this action; our carronades being almost useless.

The loss, in killed and wounded, has been great with the enemy; among the former is the 1st Lieut. of the Phœbe; and of the latter, Capt. Tucker, of the Cherub, whose wounds are severe. Both the Essex and Phœbe were in a sinking state; and it was with difficulty they could be kept afloat, until they anchored in Valparaiso, next morning. The battered state of the Essex will, I believe, prevent her from ever reaching England; and, I also think, it will be out of their power to repair the damages of the Phœbe, so as to enable her to double Cape Horn. All the masts and yards of the Phœbe, and Cherub, are badly crippled, and their hulls much cut up—the former had eighteen 12 pr. shot through her, below her water line, some three feet under water. Nothing but the smoothness of the water, saved both the Phœbe and Essex.

I hope, sir, that our conduct may prove satisfactory to

our country; and that it will testify it, by obtaining our speedy exchange, that we may again have it in our power to prove our zeal.

Commodore Hillyar, I am informed, has thought proper to state to his government, that the action only lasted 45 minutes; should he have done so, the motive may be easily discovered. But the thousands of disinterested witnesses, who covered the surrounding hills, can testify, that we fought his ships near two hours and an half. Upwards of fifty broadsides were fired by the enemy, agreeably to their own account; and upwards of seventy-five by ours. Except the few minutes they were repairing damages, the firing was incessant.

Soon after my capture, I entered into an agreement with Commodore Hillyar, to disarm my prize, the Essex Junior, and proceed with the survivors of my officers and crew, in her, to the United States. He consented to grant her a passport, to secure her from recapture. The ship was small, and we knew we had much to suffer; yet we hoped soon to reach our country, in safety, that we might again have it in our power to serve it. This arrangement was attended with no additional expence, as she was abundantly supplied with provisions, and stores, for the voyage.

In justice to Commodore Hillyar, I must observe, that, although I can never be reconciled to the manner of his attack upon the Essex, or to his conduct before the action, he has, since our capture, shown the greatest humanity to my wounded, (whom he permitted me to land, on condition that the U. States should bear the expences;) and has endeavored, as much as lay in his power, to alleviate the distresses of war, by the most generous and delicate deportment towards myself, my officers, and crew. He gave orders that the property of every person should be respected; his orders, however, were not so strictly attended to, as might have been expected: besides being deprived of books, charts, &c. both myself and officers lost many articles of clothing, some to a considerable amount. I should not have considered this last circumstance of sufficient

importance to notice, did it not mark a sriking difference between the navy of G. Britain, and the U. States, highly credible to the latter.

To possess the Essex, it has cost the British government nearly six millions of dollars ; and yet, sir, her capture was owing entirely to accident; and, if we consider the expedition with which naval contests are now decided, the action is a dishonor to them. Had they brought their ships boldly into action, with a force so very superior, and having the choice of position, they should either have captured or destroyed us, in one fourth the time they were about it.

During the action, our Consul General, Mr. Poinsett, called on the Governor of Valparaiso, and requested that the batteries might protect the Essex; this request was refused ; but he promised, if she should succeed in fighting her way to the common anchorage, he would send an officer to the British commander, and request him to cease firing; but declined using force, under any circumstances;—and, there is no doubt, a perfect understanding existed between them. This conduct, added to the assistance given to the British, and their friendly reception, after the action, and the strong bias of the faction, which govern Chili, in favor of the English, as well as their hostility to the Americans, induced Mr. Poinsett to leave that country. Under such circumstances, I did not conceive it would be proper for me to claim the restoration of my ship, confident that the claim would be made by my government, with more effect. Finding some difficulty, in the sale of my prizes, I had taken the Hector and Catharine to sea, and burnt them, with their cargoes.

I exchanged Lieut. M'Knight, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Lyman, and 11 seamen, for a part of the crew of the Sir A. Hammond, and sailed from Valparaiso on the 27th of April, where the enemy were still patching up their ships, to put them in a state for proceeding to Rio de Janeiro, previous to going to England.

I have the honor, &c. D. PORTER.

Hon. Sec. Navy.

[*LETTER REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING.*]

Extract of a letter from Com. Hillyar to Capt. Porter.

" *Phœbe, April 4th,* 1814.

" *My dear Sir*—Neither in our conversations nor in the accompanying letter, have I mentioned your sword. Ascribe my remissness, in the first instance, to forgetfulness; I consider it only in my servant's possession, with my own, until the master may please to call for it; and although I omitted, at the moment of presentation, from my mind being engrossed in attending to professional duties, to offer its restoration, the hand that received will be most gladly extended, to put it in possession of him who wore it so honorably, in defending his country's cause.

" Believe me, &c.

(Signed) " JAMES HILLYAR.

" *Captain Porter.*"

BATTLE AT CHIPPEWA PLAINS.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

Chippewa Plains, July 6, 1814.

SIR—Excuse my silence—I have been much engaged. Fort Erie did not, as I assured you it should not, detain me a single day. At 11 o'clock, on the night of the 4th, I arrived at this place with the reserve, General Scott having taken the position, about noon, with the van. My arrangements, for turning, and taking in rear the enemy's position, east of Chippewa, was made; when Maj. Gen. Reall, suspecting our intention, and adhering to the rule, that it is better to give than to receive an attack, came from behind his works, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 5th, in order of battle. We did not baulk him;—before 6 o'clock, his line was broken, and his forces defeated—leaving on the field 400 killed and wounded. He was closely pressed, and would have been utterly ruined,

but for the proximity of his works, whither he fled for shelter. The wounded of the enemy, and those of our own army, must be attended to—they will be removed to Buffaloe ; this, with my limited means of transportation, will take a day or two ; after which, I shall advance, not doubting but that the gallant and accomplished troops I led, will break down all opposition, between me and lake Ontario, when, if met by the fleet, all is well—if not, under the favor of heaven, we shall behave in a way to avoid disgrace. My detailed report shall be made in a day or two.

I am, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. Sec. War.

PROCEEDINGS ON LAKE ONTARIO.

Copy of a letter from Com. Chauncey, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. S. Superior, Sacket's Harbor, July 7, 1814.

SIR—I am happy to have it in my power to detail to you, another brilliant achievement of Lieut Gregory, with his brave companions.—I received information, some time since, that the enemy was building a large schooner, at Presque-Isle. On the 26th ult. I directed Lieut. Gregory to take with him Messrs. Vaughn and Dixon, proceed, with the two largest gigs, to Nicholas island, (within about 7 miles of Presque-Isle harbor,) and there conceal his boats, and wait for some transports, which, I had information, were expected there to take up provisions and munitions of war, which had been sent up the bay of Quintu, for the troops at York and fort George ; but, if these transports did not make their appearance in 3 or 4 days, then to proceed to Presque-Isle, and burn the vessel on the stocks—but with positive orders not to injure a private building or private property.

The day after Lieut. Gregory arrived on the coast, he discovered a vessel beating up ; but, just as he shoved off to board her, a large gun-boat hove in sight,

a little below him ; this boat made a signal to the vessel in the offing, upon which she tacked, and stood for the gun-boat. Lieut. Gregory secreted his boats as well as he could, but was apprehensive that he had been discovered. The gun-boat, and her convoy, which was full of troops, stood into Presque-Isle. Lieut. Gregory was determined to ascertain whether he had been discovered ; accordingly, he sent one of his boats, in the next night, and took off one of the inhabitants, who informed him that it was known he was on the coast, and that two expresses had been sent to Kingston, in consequence ; he, therefore, determined upon executing the latter part of his instructions, and made his arrangements accordingly—landed, placed centinels at the houses, to prevent alarm, and set fire to the vessel, which was nearly ready to launch. She was a stout, well-built vessel, to mount 14 guns, and would probably have been launched in about 10 days A small store-house, which contained stores for the vessel, was unavoidably burnt, as it was so near the vessel that it took fire from her. Lieut. Gregory learnt, from the inhabitants, that much property had been sent up, a few days previous ; that a company, of the Glengary regiment, had been stationed there, but had been sent to York a few days before ; another company was on its way, from Kingston, to replace them ; the few militia, which had been left to guard the vessel and property, retreated, upon the approach of our boats. As soon as the vessel was entirely consumed, Lieut. Gregory re-embarked his men, without having permitted one of them to enter a house. Finding the alarm so general, he thought prudent to cross the lake immediately ; he stopped one day at Oswego, for refreshment, and arrived here last evening—having performed a most difficult service, with his usual gallantry and good conduct.

I have the honor, &c.

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

Hon. W Jones, Sec. Navy.

FURTHER, OF THE BATTLE OF CHIPPEWA.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Chippewa Plains, July 7, 1814.

DEAR SIR—On the second inst. I issued my orders for crossing the Niagara river, and made the arrangements, deemed necessary, for securing the garrison of fort Erie. On the 3d, that post surrendered, at 5, P. M. Our loss, in this affair, was four wounded—I have enclosed a return of the prisoners, of the ordnance, and ordnance stores, captured.

To secure my rear, I have placed a garrison in this fort, and requested Capt. Kennedy, to station his vessels near the post.

On the morning of the 4th, Brig. Gen. Scott, with his brigade, and a corps of artillery, was ordered to advance towards Chippewa, and be governed by circumstances—taking care to secure a good military position for the night. After some skirmishing with the enemy, he selected this plain, with the eye of a soldier—his right resting on the river, and a ravine being in front. At 11, at night, I joined him with the reserve, under Gen. Ripley, our field, and battering train, and corps of artillery under Maj. Hindman. Gen. Porter arrived, next morning, with a part of the N. Y. and Pennsylvania volunteers, and some of the warriors of the Six Nations.

Early in the morning of the 5th, the enemy commenced a petty war upon our pickets, and, as he was indulged, his presumption increased;—by noon, he showed himself on the left of our exterior line, and attacked one of our pickets, as it was returning to camp. Capt. Treat, who commanded it, retired, disgracefully, leaving a wounded man on the ground. Capt. Biddle, of the artillery, who was near the scene, impelled by feelings, highly honorable to him, as a soldier and officer, promptly assumed the command of this picket—led it back to the wounded man, and brought him off the field. I ordered Capt. Treat, on the spot, to retire from the army; and, as I am anxious that no officer

shall remain under my command, who can be suspected of cowardice, I advise that Capt. Treat, and Lieut. ———, who was also with the picket, be struck from the rolls of the army.

At 4 o'clock, P. M. agreeably to a plan I had given Gen. Porter, he advanced from the rear of our camp, with the volunteers and Indians, (taking the woods, in order to keep out of view of the enemy,) with a hope of bringing his pickets, and scouting parties, between his (Porter's) line of march, and our camp. As Porter moved, I ordered the parties, advanced in front of our camp, to fall back, gradually, under the enemy's fire, in order to draw him, if possible, up to our line. About half past 4, the advance of Gen. Porter's command, met the light parties of the enemy in the woods, upon our extreme left—the enemy were driven; and Porter, advancing near to Chippewa, met their whole column in order of battle. From the cloud of dust rising, and the heavy firing, I was led to conclude that the whole force of the enemy was in march, and prepared for action. I immediately ordered Gen. Scott to advance, with his brigade, and Towson's artillery, and meet them upon the plain, in front of our camp. The General did not expect to be gratified, so soon, with a field engagement; he advanced, in the most prompt and officer-like style, and, in a few minutes, was in close action, upon the plain, with a superior force of British regular troops. By this time, Gen. Porter's command had given way, and fled in every direction, notwithstanding his personal gallantry, and great exertions to stay their flight. The retreat of the volunteers and Indians, caused the left flank of Gen. Scott's brigade to be greatly exposed. Capt. Harris, with his dragoons, was directed to stop the fugitives, behind the ravine, fronting our camp; and I sent Col. Gardner to order Gen. Ripley, to advance with the 21st regiment, which formed part of the reserve—pass to the left of our camp, skirt the woods, so as to keep out of view, and fall upon the rear of the enemy's right flank; this order was promptly obeyed; and the greatest exertions

were made by the 21st regiment, to gain their position, and close with the enemy—but in vain; for such was the zeal and gallantry of the line, commanded by Gen. Scott, that its advance upon the enemy was not to be checked. Major Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front, and in flank, and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to "support arms, and advance." The order was promptly obeyed. amidst the most deadly and destructive fire; he gained a more secure position, and returned upon the enemy so galling a discharge, as caused them to retire. By this time, their whole line was falling back, and our gallant soldiers pressing upon them, as fast as possible. As soon as the enemy had gained the sloping ground, descending towards Chippewa, and distant a quarter of a mile, he broke, and ran to gain his works; in this effort, he was too successful; and the guns, from his batteries, opening immediately upon our line, checked, in some degree, the pursuit. At this moment, I resolved to bring up all my ordnance, and force the place by a direct attack, and gave the order accordingly. Major Wood, of the corps of engineers, and my aid, Capt. Austin, rode to the bank of the creek, towards the right of their line of works, and examined them. I was induced, by the lateness of their report, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of Gen. Scott, and Major Wood, to order the forces to retire to camp.

My most difficult duty remains to be performed—I am depressed with the fear of not being able to do justice to my companions in arms; and apprehensive that some, who had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and promptly embraced it, will escape my notice.

Brig Gen. Scott is entitled to the highest praises our country can bestow; to him, more than to any man, am I indebted for the victory of the 5th of July—his brigade has covered itself with glory. Every officer, and every man of the 9th, 22d, 11th, and 25th regiments, did his duty, with a zeal and energy worthy of the American character. When every officer stands so pre-eminently

high in the path of duty and honor, it is impossible to discriminate ; but I cannot deprive myself of the pleasure of saying, that Major Leavenworth commanded the 9th, and 22d ; Major Jessup the 25th, and Major M'Neil the 11th. Col. Campbell was wounded early in the action, gallantly leading on his regiment.

The family of General Scott were conspicuous in the field; Lieut. Smith, of the 6th infantry, Major of Brigade, and Lieutenants Worth and Watts, his aids.

From General Ripley, and his Brigade, I received every assistance that I gave them an opportunity of rendering. I did not order any part of the reserve into action, until Gen. Porter's command had given way; and then Gen. Scott's movements were so rapid, and decisive, that Gen. Ripley could not get up in time, with the 21st, to the position as directed. The corps of artillery, under Major Hindman, were not generally in action; this was not their fault. Capt. Towson's company was the only one that had a full opportunity of distinguishing itself; and it is believed that no company ever embraced an opportunity with more zeal, or more success.

A detachment from the 2d brigade, under the command of Lieut. M'Donald, penetrated the woods, with the Indians and volunteers, and for their support ; the conduct of M'Donald, and his command, reflects high honor upon the brigade to which they belong.

The conduct of Gen. Porter has been conspicuously gallant; every assistance, in his power to afford, with the description of force under his command, has been rendered; we could not expect him to contend with the British column of regulars, which appeared upon the plains of Chippewa—it was no cause of surprize to me, to see his command retire before this column.

Justice forbids that I should omit to name my own family : they yield to none, in honorable zeal, intelligence, and attention to duty—Col. Gardner, Major Jones, and my aids, Captains Austin and Spencer, have been as active, and as much devoted to the cause, as any officers of the army; their conduct merits my warmest acknowledgments—of Gardner and Jones, I shall have occasion again

to speak to you. Major Camp, deputy Quarter-master General, deserves my particular notice, and approbation: by his great exertions I was enabled to find the means of crossing. Capt. Daliba, of the ordnance department, has rendered every service in his power.

The enclosed return will show you our loss, and furnish you with the names of the dead and wounded officers—these gallant men must not be forgotten; our country will remember them, and do them justice.

Respectfully, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. Sec. War.

In the above action, the enemy had 208 killed, and 95 wounded—15 prisoners—Total, 308.

Those reported under the head of *wounded* and *prisoners* were so severely injured, that it would have been impracticable for them to have escaped. The enemy had the same facilities of carrying their wounded from the field, at the commencement of the action, as ourselves; and there can be no doubt, from the information that I have received from unquestionable sources, that they carried from the field as many of their wounded as is reported above in the total.

AZ. ORNE, *Asst. Ins. Gen.*

Our loss was 60 killed—115 S. 134 B. wounded—19 prisoners—Total 328.

The British official account of the above action, state their total loss at 514.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Queenston, July 22d, 1814.

DEAR SIR—On the 20th, the army moved, and encamped in the rear of fort George. Gen. Scott. with the

van, had some skirmishing, before the main body came up; but, as the enemy kept close to their works, nothing important occurred. No force was left in our rear—the heights were abandoned to the enemy, and we did hope that the movement would have induced him to re-occupy them, or close in nearer to us, so as to bring on an engagement out of his works; in this we were disappointed.—The army returned to-day, and found a body of militia and a few regulars, in and about the heights; Gen. Porter pursued them with his command, and a few regulars, and was so fortunate as to come up with and capture seven officers and ten privates—they will be sent to Greenbush.

Respectfully, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Chippewa, July 25, 1814.

DEAR SIR—On the 23d inst. I received a letter by express, from General Gaines, advising me, that, on the 20th, the heavy guns that I had ordered from the Harbor, to enable me to operate against forts George and Niagara, were blockaded in that port, together with the rifle regiment that I had ordered up with them. I had ordered these guns, and troops, in boats, provided the Commodore should not deem it proper or prudent to convey them in his fleet, not doubting but that he would have been upon the lake for their protection, and that the enemy would have been driven into port, or captured. As Gen. Gaines informed me that the Commodore was confined to his bed with a fever, and as he did not know when the fleet would sail, or when the guns and forces which I had been expecting, would even leave Sacket's Harbor, I have thought it proper to change my position, with a view to other objects. You know how greatly I am disappointed,

and therefore I will not dwell upon that painful subject; and you can best perceive how much has been lost by the delay—and the command of lake Ontario being with the enemy—reliances being placed upon a different state of things. The Indians all left me some time since; it is said that they will return; but this, you will perceive, depends upon circumstances. The reinforcements ordered on, from the west, have not arrived.

Yours, respectfully, and truly,

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. Sec. of War.

BATTLE OF BRIDGEWATER.

Copy of a letter from Capt. L. Austin, Aid to Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Buffaloe, 29th July, 1814.

I have the honor of addressing you by desire of Gen. Brown, who is now confined by wounds, received in a severe and desperate engagement with the enemy, on the afternoon and night of the 25th instant.

Our army had fallen back to Chippewa. The enemy, collecting every regiment from Burlington and York, and meeting with no opposition on lake Ontario, transported, by water, to fort George, troops from Kingston, and even Prescott, which enabled them to bring a force against us, vastly superior, under the command of Lieut. Gen. Drummond and Maj. Gen. Riall. They were met by us near the falls of Niagara, where a most severe conflict ensued; the enemy disputed the ground with resolution, yet were driven from every position they attempted to hold. We stormed his batteries, directly in front, and took possession of all his artillery; notwithstanding his immense superiority, both in numbers and position, he was completely defeated, and our troops remained on the battle ground, without any interruption. As, however, both Generals Brown and Scott had received severe wounds—almost every chief of battalion disabled—and our men quite ex-

hausted, it was thought prudent to retire to our encampment; which was done in good order, without any molestation from the enemy—our wounded having first been removed.

Maj. Gen. Riall, with the aid-de-camp of Lieut. Gen. Drummond, and about twenty other officers, with two hundred privates, are taken prisoners.

The loss, on both sides, is immense; but no account has yet been returned. The aid, and brigade Major of Gen. Scott, are both severely wounded; and Capt. Spencer, an aid of Gen. Brown, most probably dead, having received two balls through his body. Both Generals Brown and Scott are on this side, confined by their wounds; Gen. Ripley commands on the other. General Brown received his wounds at the same instant, during a late part of the action; but still continued to keep his horse, until exhausted by loss of blood—this, probably, has rendered his wounds more painful than they would otherwise have been.

I have the honor, &c.

L. AUSTIN, *A. D. Camp.*

Hon. Sec. War.

COL. PEARSON's EXPEDITION.

The official communication of Col. Pearson, commanding the S. C. militia, in the southern indian country, to Gov. Hawkins, has been received.—The result of Col. Pearson's expedition is the taking prisoners 622 warriors, women and children, without firing a gun, or losing a man. Col, Pearson's letters, detailing his movements, are dated June 1st and 13th.

FURTHER—BATTLE OF BRIDGEWATER.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Brown, to the Secretary of War, being his detailed report of the Battle of Bridgewater, fought July 25, 1814.

SIR—Confined as I was, and have been, since the last engagement with the enemy, I fear that the account I am

about to give, may be less full and satisfactory, than, under other circumstances, it might have been made. I particularly fear that the conduct of the gallant men, it was my good fortune to lead, will not be noticed in a way due to their fame, and the honor of our country.

You are already apprised that the army had, on the 25th ult. taken a position at Chippewa; about noon of that day, Col. Swift, who was posted at Lewistown, advised me, by express, that the enemy appeared in considerable force, in Queenston, and on its heights; that four of the enemy's fleet had arrived, during the preceding night, and were then lying near fort Niagara; and that a number of boats were in view, moving up the streight.—Within a few minutes after this intelligence had been received, I was further informed, by Capt. Denmon, of the Quarter-master's department, that the enemy was landing at Lewistown; and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser, and on their way thither, were in danger of immediate capture. It is proper here to mention, that having received advices as late as the 20th, from Gen. Gaines, that our fleet was then in port, and the Commodore sick, we ceased to look for co-operation from that quarter, and determined to disencumber ourselves of baggage, and march directly for Burlington heights: to mask this intention, and to draw from Schlosser a small supply of provisions, I fell back upon Chippewa. As this arrangement, under the increased force of the enemy, left much at hazard, on our own side of the Niagara, and as it appeared, by the before stated information, that the enemy was about to avail himself of it, I conceived that the most effectual method of recalling him from this object, was to put myself in motion towards Queenston. Gen. Scott, with the 1st brigade, Towson's artillery, and all the dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in march, on the road leading thither, with orders to report if the enemy appeared—then to call for assistance, if that was necessary.

On the General's arrival at the falls, he learned that the enemy was in force, directly in his front, narrow pieces of woods alone intercepting his view of them:—

waiting only to give this information, he advanced upon them; by the time assistant Adj. Gen. Jones had delivered his message, the action began; and before the remaining part of the division had crossed the Chippewa, it had become close and general between the advanced corps. Though Gen. Ripley, with the second brigade, Major Hindman, with the corps of artillery, and Gen. Porter, at the head of his command, had respectively pressed forward with ardor, it was not less than an hour before they were brought to sustain Gen. Scott, during which time his command most skilfully, and gallantly, maintained the conflict. Upon my arrival, I found that the General had passed the wood, and engaged the enemy on the Queenston road, and on the ground to the left of it, with the 9th, 11th, and 22d regiments, with Towson's artillery—the 25th had been thrown to the right, to be governed by circumstances. Apprehending that these corps were much exhausted, and knowing that they had suffered severely, I determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage Gen. Scott, and hold his brigade in reserve; orders were accordingly given to Gen. Ripley. The enemy's artillery, at this moment, occupied a hill, which gave him great advantages, and was the key of the whole position; it was supported by a line of infantry. To secure the victory, it was necessary to carry this artillery, and seize the height;—this duty was assigned to Col. Miller, while, to favor its execution, the 1st regiment, under the command of Col. Nicholas, was directed to menace and amuse the infantry. To my great mortification, this regiment, after a discharge or two, gave way, and retreated some distance before it could be rallied, though, it is believed, the officers of the regiment exerted themselves to shorten this distance. In the mean time, Col. Miller, without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily, and gallantly, to his object, and carried the height, and the cannon. Gen. Ripley brought up the 23d (which had also faultered,) to his support, and the enemy disappeared from before them. The 1st regiment was now brought into line, on the left of the 21st and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, Gen. Porter occupying,

with his command, the extreme left—about the time Col. Miller carried the enemy's cannon.

The 25th regiment, under Major Jessup, was engaged in a more obstinate contest, with all that remained to dispute with us the field of battle. The Major, as has been already stated, had been ordered by General Scott, at the commencement of the action, to take ground to the right; he had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank —had captured (by a detachment under Capt. Ketchum,) Gen. Riall, and sundry other officers—and showed himself again, to his own army, in a blaze of fire, which defeated or destroyed a very superior force of the enemy. He was ordered to form on the right of the 2d regiment. The enemy, rallying his forces, and, as is believed, having received reinforcements, now attempted to drive us from our position, and regain his artillery; our line was unshaken, and the enemy repulsed; two other attempts, having the same object, had the same issue—Gen. Scott was again engaged, in repelling the former of these; and the last I saw of him, on the field of battle, he was near the head of his column, and giving, to its march, a direction that would have placed him on the enemy's right. It was with great pleasure I saw the good order and intrepidity of Gen. Porter's volunteers, from the moment of their arrival; but, during the last charge of the enemy, those qualities were conspicuous—stimulated by the example set them by their gallant leader, by Major Wood, of the Pennsylvania corps, by Col. Dobbin, of New-York, and by their officers generally, they precipitated themselves upon the enemy's line, and made all the prisoners which were taken at this point of the action.

Having been for some time wounded, and being a good deal exhausted by loss of blood, it became my wish to devolve the command on Gen. Scott, and retire from the field; but, on enquiry, I had the misfortune to learn that he was disabled by wounds; I therefore kept my post, and had the satisfaction of seeing the enemy's last effort repulsed—I now consigned the command to General Ripley.

While retiring from the field, I saw and felt that the

victory was complete on our part, if proper measures were promptly adopted to secure it. The exhaustion of the men was, however, such as made some refreshment necessary; they particularly required water—I was, myself, extremely sensible of the want of this necessary article; I therefore believed it proper that Gen. Ripley, and the troops should return to camp, after bringing off the dead, the wounded and the artillery; and, in this, I saw no difficulty, as the enemy had entirely ceased to act. Within an hour after my arrival in camp, I was informed that Gen. Ripley had returned, without annoyance, and in good order. I now sent for him; and, after giving him my reasons for the measure I was about to adopt, ordered him to put the troops in the best possible condition; to give to them the necessary refreshment; to take with him the picquets and camp guards, and every other description of force; to put himself on the field of battle as the day dawned, and there to meet and beat the enemy, if he appeared—to this order he made no objection, and I relied upon its execution;—it was not executed. I feel, most sensibly, how inadequate are my powers in speaking of the troops, to do justice either to their merits, or to my own sense of them—under able direction they might have done more, and better.

From the preceding detail, you have new evidence of the distinguished gallantry of Generals Scott and Porter, of Col. Miller, and Major Jessup.

Of the 1st brigade, the chief, with his aid-de-camp. Worth, his Major of brigade, Smith, and every commander of battalion, were wounded. The 2d brigade suffered less; but, as a brigade, their conduct entitled them to the applause of their country. After the enemy's strong position had been carried by the 21st, and detachments of the 17th and 19th, the 1st and 23d assumed a new character—they could not, again, be shaken or dismayed. Major M'Farland, of the latter, fell nobly at the head of his battalion. Under the command of Gen. Porter, the militia volunteers, of Pennsylvania and New-York, stood undismayed, amidst their hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them. The Canadian volunteers,

commanded by Col. Wilson, are reported by Gen. Porter, as having merited and received his approbation. The corps of artillery, commanded by Major Hindman, behaved with its usual gallantry. Capt. Towson's company, attached to the 1st brigade, was the first and the last engaged; and, during the whole conflict, maintained that high character, which they had previously won by their skill and their valor. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded early in the action, but refused to quit the field; the latter declared that he never would leave his piece—and, true to his engagement, fell by its side, covered with wounds.

The staff of the army had its peculiar merit and distinction—Col. Gardner, Adj. Gen. though ill, was on horseback, and did all in his power; his assistant, Major Jones, was very active and useful; my gallant aids-de-camp, Austin and Spencer, had many, and critical, duties to perform—in the discharge of which, the latter fell:—I shall ever think of this young man, with pride and regret—regret, that his career has been so short; pride, that it has been honorable and distinguished. The engineers, Majors M'Rea and Wood, were greatly distinguished on this day, and their high military talents, exerted with great effect; they were much under my eye, and near my person—and, to their assistance, a great deal is fairly to be ascribed; I most earnestly recommend them, as worthy of the highest trust and confidence.

The staff of Generals Ripley and Porter discovered great zeal, and attention to duty. Lieut. E. B. Randolph, of the 20th, is entitled to notice—his courage was conspicuous.

I enclose a return of our loss; those noted as missing may generally be numbered with the dead. The enemy had but little opportunity of making prisoners.

I have the honor, &c.

Hon. J. Armstrong, *Sec. War.* JACOB BROWN.

Return of killed, wounded and missing, in the above action.—Killed, 171—Wounded, 570—Missing, 117——Total, 858. C. K. GARDNER, Adj. Gen.

Return of prisoners, taken from the enemy in the above action, viz.—1 Major General, (Riall)—1 Aid (to Lt. Gen. Drummond)—6 Captains—11 Subalterns—150 rank and file—Total 169. AZ. ORNE, Assist. Insp. Gen.

The British official account of the above action makes their loss as follows, viz.—Killed, 84—Wounded, 559,—Missing, 193—Prisoners, 42—Total, 878.

(Signed) ED. BAYNES.

AFFAIR OF BLADENSBURGH.

Copy of a letter from Brig. General Winder, to the Secretary of War, dated

Baltimore, August 27, 1814.

SIR—When the enemy arrived at the mouth of the Potomac, of all the militia which I had been authorized to assemble, there were but about 1700 in the field—from 13 to 1400 under Gen. Stansbury, near this place, and about 250 at Bladensburgh, under Lieut. Col. Krammer. The slow progress of draft, and the imperfect organization, with the ineffectiveness of the laws to compel them to turn out, rendered it impossible to have procured more.

The militia of this state, and of the contiguous parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania, were called on, *en masse*; but the former militia law of Pennsylvania had expired, the 1st of June or July, and the one adopted in its place is not to take effect, in organizing the militia, before October; no aid, therefore, has been received from that state.

After all the force that could be put at my disposal in that short time, and making such dispositions as I deemed best calculated to present the most respectable force, at whatever point the enemy might strike, I was enabled, by the most active and harassing movements of the troops, to interpose before the enemy, at Bladensburgh, about 5000 men, including 350 regulars, and Commodore Barney's command;—much the largest portion of this force arrived on the ground when the enemy were in sight, and

were disposed of to support, in the best manner, the position which Gen. Stansbury had taken. They had barely reached the ground when the action commenced; which was about 1 o'clock, P. M. of the 24th instant—and continued about an hour. The contest was not as obstinately maintained as could have been desired; but was, by parts of the troops, sustained with great spirit, and with prodigious effect; and, had the whole of our force been equally firm, I am induced to believe that the enemy would have been repulsed, notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which we fought.—The artillery, from Baltimore, supported by Major Pinckney's rifle battalion, and a part of Capt. Doughty's, from the navy-yard, were in advance, to command the pass of the bridge, at Bladensburgh, and played upon the enemy, as I have since learned. with very destructive effect. But the rifle troops were obliged, after some time, to retire; and, of course, the artillery. Superior numbers, however, rushed upon them, and made their retreat necessary; not, however, without great loss from the enemy. Major Pinckney received a severe wound in his right arm, after he had retired to the left flank of Stansbury's brigade. The right and centre of Stansbury's brigade, consisting of Lieut. Col. Ragan's and Shuler's regiments, generally gave way very soon afterwards, with the exception of about 40, rallied by Col. Ragan, after having lost his horse, and the whole, or a part of Capt. Shower's company—both of whom Gen. Stansbury represents to have made, even thus deserted, a gallant stand. The fall which Lieut. Col. Ragan received, from his horse, together with his great efforts to sustain his position, rendered him unable to follow the retreat: we have, therefore, to lament, that this gallant and excellent officer has been taken prisoner; he has, however, been paroled; and I met him here, recovering from the bruises occasioned by his fall.

The 5th Baltimore regiment, under Lieut. Col. Sterrett, being the left of Gen. Stansbury's brigade, still, however, stood their ground; and, except for a moment, when part of them recoiled a few steps, remained firm, and stood un-

til ordered to retreat, with a view to prevent them from being outflanked.

The reserve, under Brig. Gen. Smith, of the District of Columbia, with the militia of the city and Georgetown, with the regulars and some detachments of Maryland militia, flanked on their right by Commodore Barney, and his brave fellows, and Lieut. Col. Beall, still were to the right, on the hill, and maintained the contest for some time, with great effect.

It is not with me to report the conduct of Commodore Barney, and his command; nor can I speak from observation, too remote; but the concurrent testimony, of all who did observe them, does them the highest justice, for their brave resistance, and destructive effect they produced on the enemy. Commodore Barney, after having lost his horse, took post near one of his guns; and there, unfortunately, received a severe wound in the thigh, and he also fell into the hands of the enemy. Capt. Miller, of the marines, was wounded in the arm, fighting bravely. From the best intelligence, there remains but little doubt, that the enemy lost, at least, 400, killed and wounded; and, of these, a very unusual portion killed. Our loss cannot, I think, be estimated at more than from 30 to 40 killed, and 50 to 60 wounded. They took, altogether, about 120 prisoners.

You will readily understand, that it is impossible for me to speak, minutely, of the merit or demerit of particular troops, so little known to me, from their recent and hasty assemblage. My subsequent movements, for the purpose of preserving as much of my force as possible, gaining reinforcements, and protecting this place, you already know.

I am, &c.

W. H. WINDER, *B. Gen. 10th M. D.*

Hon. J. Armstrong, *Sec. War.*

BATTLE AT FORT ERIE.

Copies of letters from Brig. Gen. Gaines, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Fort Erie, U. C. Aug. 23d, 1814.

SIR—Loss of sleep, and constant exposure to the weather, in its various changes, gave me, some days ago, a violent cold, which has put it out of my power to do any thing more than the state of the service here rendered absolutely indispensable; hence my apology for delaying, until this day, my report of the battle of the 15th inst.

General Drummond is quietly engaged, in collecting his reinforcements; his camp appears to be fortified: I attempted to look at it, a few days past, and it cost me a fine young officer, Lieut. Yates, of the 4th rifle regiment, killed, and Lieut Kearsley, of that excellent corps, with Lieut. Childs, of the 9th, wounded; with the loss of some 2 or 3 privates killed, and 5 or 6 woundnd. The loss of the enemy, I was unable to ascertain; he would not leave his defences, and I did not think fit to leave mine at all exposed. Several deserters say, that the 6th and 82d regiments arrived last night—if this be true, their strength is about the same as it was before the battle of the 15th; their Col. Scott, is dead. About 20 deserters from the De Watteville regiment, and some few from other corps, concur in the report, that their loss in killed, wounded, and missing, on the 15th, was upwards of a thousand.

Your obedient servant,

E. P. GAINES. *B. Gen. Comg.*

Gen. Armstrong, *Sec. War.*

DETAILED REPORT.

H. Q. Left wing 2d Division, Fort Erie, U. C. Aug. 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to communicate, for the information of the department of war, the particulars of the battle fought at this place, on the 15th inst. between

the left wing of the 2d division of the northern army, under my command, and the British forces in the Peninsula of U. C. commanded by Lieut. Gen. Drummond, which terminated in a signal victory, in favor of the United American arms. Our position, on the margin of the lake, at the entrance of the Niagara river, being nearly a horizontal plane, 12 or 15 feet above the surface of the water, possessing few natural advantages, had been strengthened in front, by temporary parapet breastworks, intrenchments, and abattis, with two batteries and 6 field pieces. The small, unfinished fort, Erie, with a 24, 18, and 12 prs. forms the N. E.—and the Douglass battery, with an 18, and 6 pr. near the edge of the lake, the S. E. angle of our right; the left is defended by a redoubt battery, with 6 field pieces, just thrown up on a small ridge; our rear was left open to the lake, bordered by a rocky shore of easy ascent; the battery, on the left, was defended by Capt. Towson; Fort Erie, by Capt. Williams, with Major Trimble's command, of the 19th infantry; the batteries on the front, by Captains Biddle and Fanning; the whole of the artillery commanded by Major Hindman. Parts of the 11th, 9th, and 22d infantry, (of the late veteran brigade of Maj. Gen. Scott,) were posted on the right, under the command of Lieut. Col. Aspinwall; Gen. Ripley's brigade, consisting of the 21st and 23d, defended the left; Gen. Porter's brigade, of New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, with our distinguished riflemen, occupied the centre.

I have, heretofore, omitted stating to you, that, during the 13th and 14th, the enemy had kept up a brisk cannonade, which was sharply returned from our batteries, without any considerable loss on our part; at 6, P. M. one of their shells lodged in a small magazine, in fort Erie, which was fortunately almost empty; it blew up, with an explosion, more awful in its appearance than injurious in its effects, as it did not disable a man, or damage a gun. It occasioned but a momentary cessation of the thunders of the artillery, on both sides; it was followed by a loud and joyous shout of

the British army, which was instantly returned on our part; and Capt. Williams, amidst the smoke of the explosion, renewed the contest by an animated roar of his heavy cannon.

From the supposed loss of our ammunition, and the consequent depression such an event was likely to produce upon the minds of our men, I felt persuaded that this explosion would lead the enemy to assault, and made my arrangements accordingly—the annexed paper, No. 1. is a copy of Lieut. Gen. Drummond's plan of attack.

The night was dark, and, the early part of it, raining; but the faithful centinel slept not:—one third of the troops were up at their posts. At half past 2 o'clock, the right column of the enemy approached; and, though enveloped in darkness, black as his designs and principles, was distinctly heard on our left, and promptly marked by our musquetry, under Major Wood, and artillery, under Capt Towson. Being mounted at the moment, I repaired to the point of attack, where the sheet of fire, rolling from Towson's battery and the musquetry, of the left wing of the 21st infantry, under Major Wood, enabled me to see the enemy's column, of about 1500 men, approaching on that point; his advance was not checked, until it approached within 10 feet of our infantry; a line of loose brush, representing an abattis, only intervened; a column of the enemy attempted to pass round the abattis, through the water, where it was nearly breast deep: apprehending that this point would be carried, I ordered a detachment of riflemen and infantry to its support; but having met with the gallant commander, Major Wood, was assured by him that he could defend his position without reinforcements.

At this moment the enemy were repulsed; but instantly renewed the charge, and were again repulsed. My attention was now called to the right, where our batteries and lines were soon lighted by a most brilliant fire, of cannon and musquetry; it announced the approach of the centre and left columns of the enemy,

under Colonels Drummond and Scott—the latter was received by the veteran 9th, under the command of Capt. Foster, and Captains Boughton and Harding's companies of New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, aided by a 6 pr. judiciously posted by Major M'Rea, chief engineer, who was most active and useful at this point—they were repulsed. That of the centre, led by Col. Drummond, was not long kept in check; it approached, at once, every assailable point of the fort, and, with scaling ladders, ascended the parapet, but was repulsed with dreadful carnage. The assault was twice repeated, and as often checked; but the enemy, having moved round in the ditch, covered by darkness, added to the heavy cloud of smoke which had rolled from our cannon and musquetry, enveloping surrounding objects, repeated the charge, re-ascended the ladders—their pikes, bayonets, and spears, fell upon our gallant artillerists. The gallant spirits of our favorite, Capt. Williams, and Lieuts. M'Donough and Watmough, with their brave men, were overcome—the two former, and several of their men, received deadly wounds—our bastion was lost. Lieut. M'Donough, being severely wounded, demanded quarter; it was refused by Col Drummond—the Lieutenant then seized a handspike, and nobly defended himself, until he was shot down with a pistol, by the monster who had refused him quarter; who often reiterated the order, "give the damned yankees no quarter." This officer, whose bravery, if it had been seasoned with virtue, would have entitled him to the admiration of every soldier—this hardened murderer soon met his fate: he was shot through the breast by ——, of the —— regiment, while repeating the order, to "give no quarter." The battle now raged with increased fury, on the right; but on the left, the enemy was repulsed and put to flight; thence, and from the centre, I ordered reinforcements—they were promptly sent, by Brig. Gen. Ripley and Gen. Porter. Capt. Fanning, of the corps of artillery, kept a spirited and destructive fire, with his field pieces, on the enemy attempting to approach

the fort. Major Hindman's gallant efforts, aided by Major Trimble, having failed to drive the enemy from the bastion, with the remaining artillery and infantry, in the forts, Capt. Bindsall, of the 4th rifle regiment, with a detachment of riflemen, gallantly rushed in, through the gateway, to their assistance; and, with some infantry, charged the enemy—but was repulsed, and the Captain severely wounded. A detachment from the 11th, 19th, and 22d infantry, under Capt. Foster, of the 11th, were introduced over the interior bastion, for the purpose of charging the enemy; Major Hall, assistant Inspector-General, very handsomely tendered his services to lead the charge; the charge was gallantly made by Capt. Foster, and Major Hall; but owing to the narrowness of the passage up to the bastion, admitting only 2 or 3 men abreast, it failed:—it was often repeated, and as often checked. The enemy's force in the bastion was, however, much cut to pieces, and diminished, by our artillery and small arms. At this moment, every operation was arrested by the explosion of some cartridges, deposited in the end of the stone building, adjoining the contested bastion—the explosion was tremendous—it was decisive—the bastion was restored. At this moment Capt. Biddle was ordered to cause a field piece to be posted, so as to enfilade the exterior plain and salient glacis. The Captain, though not recovered from a severe contusion in the shoulder, received from one of the enemy's shells, promptly took his position, and served his field piece with vivacity and effect. Capt. Fanning's battery, likewise, played upon them, at this time, with great effect—the enemy were, in a few moments, entirely defeated, taken, or put to flight, leaving on the field 221 killed, 174 wounded, and 186 prisoners—(581,) including 14 officers killed, and 7 wounded and prisoners; a large portion are so severely wounded that they cannot survive; the slightly wounded, it is presumed, were carried off.

To Brig. Gen. Ripley, much credit is due, for the judicious disposition of the left wing, previous to the

action, and for the steady disciplined courage manifested by him, and his immediate command; and for the promptness with which he complied with my orders, for reinforcement, during the action. Brig. Gen. Porter, commanding the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, manifested a degree of vigilance and judgment, in his preparatory arrangements, as well as military skill and courage, in action, which proves him to be worthy the confidence of his country, and the brave volunteers who fought under him. Of the volunteers, Captains Boughton and Harding, with their detachments posted on the right, and attached to the line, commanded by Capt. E. Foster, of the veteran 9th infantry, handsomely contributed to the repulse of the left column of the enemy, under Col. Scott.

The judicious preparations, and steady conduct of Lieut. Col. Aspinwall, commanding the first brigade, merit approbation. To Major M'Rea, chief engineer, the greatest credit is due, for the excellent arrangement, and skilful execution of his plans for fortifying and defending the right, and for his correct and seasonable suggestions in regaining the bastion. Major Wood, of the engineers, also greatly contributed to the previous measures of defence; he had accepted the command of a regiment of infantry, (the 21st,) for which he has often proved himself well qualified, but never so conspicuously as on this occasion.

Towson's battery emitted a constant sheet of fire—Wood's small arms lighted up the space, and repulsed five terrible charges, made between the battery and the lake. Brig. Gen. Ripley speaks in high terms of the officers and men engaged, particularly Captains Marston and Ropes. Lieutenants Riddle, of the 15th, (doing duty with the 21st,) and Hall; Ensigns Benn, Jones, Cummings, and Thomas, of the 21st, and Keally and Green, of the 19th.

Major Hindman, and the whole of the artillery under the command of that excellent officer, displayed a degree of gallantry and good conduct, not to be surpassed. The particular situation of Capt. Towson, and

the much lamented Captain Williams and Lieutenant M'Donough, and that of Lieut. Watmough, as already described, with their respective commands, rendered them most conspicuous. The courage and good conduct of Lieut. Zantzinger, and Lieut. Chiles, is spoken of in high terms, by Major Hindman and Captain Towson; as also that of serjeant-major Denhon. Captains Biddle and Fanning, on the centre and right of their entrenchments, threw their shot to the right, left, and front, and annoyed the Indians, and light troops of the enemy, approaching from the woods. Lieut. Fontaine, in his zeal to meet the enemy, was unfortunately wounded, and made prisoner. Lieut. Bird was active and useful; and, in fact, every individual of the corps did their duty.

The detachment of Scott's gallant brigade, consisting of parts of the 9th, 11th, and 22d infantry, did its duty in a manner worthy the high reputation the brigade had acquired at Chippewa, and at the falls of Niagara. The 9th, under the command of Capt. E. Foster, was actively engaged against the left of the enemy; and, with the aid of Lieut. Douglass' corps of bombardiers, commanding the water battery, and of that of the volunteers, under Captains Boughton and Harding, effected their repulse. The good conduct of Lieuts. Childs, Cushman, and Foote, and Ensign Blake, deserves commendation.

The officers killed, are Capt. Williams and Lieut. M'Donough, of the artillery—wounded, 6 other subaltern officers, severely.

Lieut. Fontaine, of the artillery, who was taken prisoner, writes from the British camp, that he fortunately fell into the hands of the Indians, who, after taking his money, treated him kindly—it would seem, then, that these savages had not joined in the resolution to give no quarters.

I have the honor, &c.

E. P. GAINES, *Brig. Gen. Comg.*

Hon. J. Armstrong, *Sec. War.*

Return of the killed, wounded, and missing, (Americans) *in the above action, viz.*—Killed, 17—wounded, 56—missing, 11—total 84.

Report of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, taken at the battle of Erie, U. C. Aug. 15, 1814.—Killed, left on the field, 222; wounded, left on the field, 174; prisoners taken, 186—total, 582.

Two hundred, supposed to be killed, on the left flank, near Snake Hill, (in the water,) and permitted to float down the Niagara; the number on the right flank, near the woods, could not be ascertained.

NATHL. N. HALL, *Asst. Insp. Gen.*

Brig. Gen. E. P. Gaines.

Adjutant-General Baynes' official account of the above, makes their loss between 900 and 1000.

THE ADAMS DESTROYED.

Copy of a letter from Capt. C. Morris, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

Portland, Sept. 8th, 1814.

SIR---It is with regret that I inform you we were compelled to destroy the Adams, at Hampden, on the morning of the 3d inst. to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. All the officers effected their escape; and I believe the crew, with the exception of very few, who were unable to travel: their precise number cannot yet be ascertained, as we were obliged to pursue different routes, for the purpose of obtaining provisions, through the woods, between the Penobscot and Kennebek.

I am now engaged in collecting, and forwarding the men, with the utmost dispatch, to Portsmouth; from which place I hope soon to forward a detailed account

of our proceedings. In the mean time, I request you to believe, that the officers and crew of the ship neglected no means, in their power, for her defence.

I have the honor, &c,

C. MORRIS.

Hon. W Jones, Sec. Navy.

M'DONOUGH's VICTORY.

Copy of a letter from Commodore M'Donough, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. S. Saratoga, off Plattsburg, Sept. 11th, 1814.

SIR—The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory, on Lake Champlain, in the capture of one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war, of the enemy.

I have the honor, &c.

T. M'DONOUGH, *Comg.*

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

DEFENCE OF FORT MOREAU.

Copy of a letter from General Macomb, to the Secretary of War, dated

Fort Moreau, Sept. 12, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that the British army, consisting of four brigades, a corps of artillery, a squadron of horse, and a strong light corps, amounting, in all, to about fourteen thousand men, after investing this place, on the north of Saranac river, since the 5th inst. broke up their camp, and raised the siege this morning, at 2 o'clock; they are now retreating precipitately, leaving their sick and wounded behind. The enemy opened his batteries yesterday morning, and continued the cannonading, bombarding, and rocket-firing, until sunset; by this time our batteries had completely silenced those of our opponents.

The light troops, and militia, are now in full pursuit

of the enemy, making prisoners in all directions; deserters are continually coming in, so that the loss of the British army, in this enterprize, will be considerable.

A more detailed report will be made of the siege, and circumstances attending it, as soon as possible.

The officers, and men, have all done their duty. The artillery, and the engineers, have performed their functions, with a zeal and precision highly creditable to themselves, and honorable to their country. Our loss is trifling, indeed; having only 1 officer and 15 men killed, and 1 officer and 30 men wounded.

The militia of New-York, and volunteers of Vermont, have been exceedingly serviceable, and have evinced a degree of patriotism, and bravery, worthy of themselves and the states to which they respectively belong. The strength of the garrison is only 1,500 effective men, rank and file.

I have the honor, &c.

ALEX. MACOMB.

Hon. Sec. War.

VICTORY ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

Copy of a letter from George Beale, Jun. to Com. M'Donough, dated

U. S. S. Saratoga, Sept. 13, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose you a list of the killed and wounded, on board of the different vessels, of the squadron under your command, in the action of the 11th instant.

It is impossible to ascertain, correctly, the loss of the enemy; from the best information received from the British officers, from my own observations, and from various lists, found on board the Confiance, I calculate the number of men, on board that ship at the commencement of the action, at 270, of whom, at least, 180 were killed and wounded; and, on board the other captured vessels, at least 80 more—making, in the whole, killed and wounded, 260. This is, doubtless, short of the real number, as

many were thrown overboard, from the Confiance, during the engagement.

The muster-books must have been thrown overboard, or otherwise disposed of, as they are not to be found.

I am, sir, &c.

GEO. BEALE, Jun. *Purser.*

Thos. M'Donough, Comg.

FURTHER, OF M'DONOUGH'S VICTORY.

Copy of a letter from Com. M'Donough, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. S. Saratoga, Plattsburgh Bay, Sept. 13, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to give you the particulars of the action, which took place on the 11th instant on this lake.

For several days the enemy were on their way to Plattsburgh, by land and water; and it being well understood, that an attack would be made, at the same time, by their land and naval forces, I determined to await, at anchor, the approach of the latter.

At 8 o'clock, A. M. the look-out boat announced the approach of the enemy—at 9, he anchored in a line, ahead, at about 300 yards distance from my line—his ship opposed to the Saratoga, his brig to the Eagle, his gallies, (13 in number,) to the schooner, sloop, and a division of our gallies; one of his sloops assisting their ship and brig, the other assisting their gallies—our remaining gallies, with the Saratoga and Eagle.

In this situation, the whole force, on both sides, became engaged; the Saratoga suffering much, from the heavy fire of the Confiance. I could perceive, at the same time, however, that our fire was very destructive to her. The Ticonderoga, Lieut. Comdt. Cassin, gallantly sustained her full share of the action.

At half past 10 o'clock, the Eagle, not being able to bring her guns to bear, cut her cable, and anchored in a more eligible position, between my ship and the Ticon-

deroga, where she very much annoyed the enemy, but unfortunately leaving me exposed to a galling fire from the enemy's brig. Our guns, on the starboard side, being nearly all dismounted, or not manageable, a stern anchor was let go, the bower cable cut, and the ship winded with a fresh broadside on the enemy's ship, which soon after surrendered. Our broadside was then sprung, to bear on the brig, which surrendered in about 15 minutes after.

The sloop, that was opposed to the Eagle, had struck some time before, and drifted down the line; the sloop, which was with their gallies, having struck also. Three of their gallies are said to be sunk; the others pulled off. Our gallies were about obeying, with alacrity, the signal to follow them, when all their vessels were reported, to me, as being in a sinking state; it then became necessary to annul the signal, to the gallies, and order their men to the pumps.

I could only look at the enemy's gallies going off, in a shattered condition; for there was not a mast, in either squadron, that could stand to make sail on; the lower rigging being nearly all shot away, hung down as though it had been just placed over the mast-heads.

The Saratoga had 55 round shot in her hull; the Confiance 105. The enemy's shot passed, principally, just over our heads, as there were not 20 whole hammocks in the nettings, at the close of the action, which lasted, without intermission, two hours and twenty minutes.

The absence, and sickness of Lieut. Raymond Perry, left me without the services of that excellent officer; much ought fairly to be attributed to him, for his great care, and attention, in disciplining the ship's crew, as her first Lieutenant; his place was filled by a gallant young officer, Lieut. Peter Gamble, who, I regret to inform you, was killed early in the action. Acting Lieut. Vallette worked the 1st and 2d divisions of guns, with able effect. Sailing-master Brum's attention to the springs, and in the execution of the order to wind the ship, and occasionally at the guns, meets with my entire approbation; also Capt. Youngs, commanding the acting marines, who took his

men to the guns. Mr. Beale, Purser, was of great service at the guns, and in carrying my orders throughout the ship, with Midshipman Montgomery. Master's mate, Joshua Justin, had command of the third division; his conduct, during the action, was that of a brave and correct officer. Midshipmen Monteath, Graham, Williamson, Platt, Theving, and acting Midshipman Baldwin, all behaved well, and gave evidence of their making valuable officers.

The Saratoga was twice set on fire, by hot shot from the enemy's ship.

I close, sir, this communication with feelings of gratitude, for the able support I received from every officer and man attached to the squadron, which I have the honor to command.

I have the honor, &c.

T. McDONOUGH.

Hon. W. Jones, *Sec. Navy.*

Return of killed and wounded, on board the U. States squadron, in the above action.—Killed, 52; wounded, 58—total, 110. Our force amounted to 86 guns—that of the enemy to 95 guns.

SORTIE NEAR FORT ERIE.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Fort Erie, Sept. 18, 1814.

SIR—I have the satisfaction to announce to you a brilliant achievement, yesterday effected by the forces under my command. A sortie was made upon the enemy's batteries—these were carried; we blew up his principal work, destroyed his battering pieces, and captured 400 prisoners. The enemy resisted our assault with firmness, but suffered greatly—his total loss cannot be less than 800 men.

In such a business, we could not but expect to lose many valuable lives; they were offered up a voluntary sacrifice to the safety and honor of this army and nation.

I will forward to you the particulars of this splendid affair, with a return of the killed and wounded, in the course of a few days.

Very respectfully, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. Sec. of War.

GEN. MACOMB's DETAILED REPORT.

Copy of a letter from Brig. Gen. Macomb, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Plattsburgh, Sept. 15, 1814.

SIR—I have the honor to communicate, for the information of the war department, the particulars of the advance of the enemy into the territory of the U. States, the circumstances attending the siege of Plattsburgh, and the defence of the posts entrusted to my charge.

The Governor-General of the Canadas, Sir George Prevost, having collected all the disposable force of Lower Canada, with a view of conquering the country as far as Crown-point and Ticonderoga, entered the territory of the U. States, on the first of the month, and occupied the village of Champlain—there avowed his intentions, and issued orders and proclamations, tending to dissuade the people from their allegiance, and inviting them to furnish his army with provisions. He immediately began to impress the waggons, and teams, in the vicinity, and loaded them with his heavy baggage and stores; from this, I was persuaded he intended to attack this place. I had but just returned from the lines, where I had commanded a fine brigade, which was broken up to form the division of Maj. Gen. Izard, ordered to the westward. Being senior officer, he left me in command; and, except the four companies of the 6th regiment, I had not an organized battalion among those remaining; the garrison was composed of convalescents, and the recruits of the new regiments—all in the greatest confusion, as well as the ordnance and stores, and the works in no state of defence. To create

an emulation and zeal, among the officers and men, in completing the works, I divided them into detachments, and placed them near the several forts—declaring, in orders, that each detachment was the garrison of its own work, and bound to defend it to the last extremity.

The enemy advanced cautiously, and by short marches, and our soldiers worked day and night; so that, by the time he made his appearance before the place, we were prepared to receive him.

Gen. Izard named the principal work Fort Moreau; and, to remind the troops of the actions of their brave countrymen, I called the redoubt, on the right, fort Brown; and that on the left, fort Scott; besides these three works, we have two block-houses, strongly fortified.

Finding, on examining the returns of the garrison, that our force did not exceed fifteen hundred men for duty, and well informed that the enemy had as many thousand, I called on Gen. Mooers, of the New-York militia, and arranged, with him, plans for bringing forth the militia, *en masse*. The inhabitants of the village fled, with their families and effects, except a few worthy citizens, and some boys, who formed themselves into a party, received rifles, and were exceedingly useful.

By the 4th of the month, Gen. Mooers collected about 700 militia, and advanced 7 miles on the Beekman Town road, to watch the motions of the enemy, and to skirmish with him as he advanced—also, to obstruct the roads with fallen trees, and to break up the bridges. On the lake road, at Dead-creek bridge, I posted 200 men, under Capt. Sproul, of the 13th regiment, with orders to abattis the woods, to place obstructions in the road, and to fortify himself; to this party I added two field pieces. In advance of that position, was Lieut. Col. Appling, with 110 riflemen, watching the movements of the enemy, and procuring intelligence. It was ascertained that, before daylight on the 6th, the enemy would advance in two columns, on the two roads before mentioned, dividing at Sampson's, a little below Chazy village. The column, on the Beekman Town road, proceeded most rapidly; the militia skirmished with their advanced parties, and, except a few

brave men, fell back most precipitately in the greatest disorder, notwithstanding the British troops did not deign to fire on them, except by their flankers and advanced patroles. The night previous, I ordered Major Wool to advance, with a detachment of 250 men, to support the militia, and set them an example of firmness; also Captain Leonard, of the light artillery, was directed to proceed with two pieces, to be on the ground before day—yet he did not make his appearance until 8 o'clock, when the enemy had approached within two miles of the village; with his conduct, therefore, I am not well pleased. Major Wool, with his party, disputed the road with great obstinacy, but the militia could not be prevailed on to stand, notwithstanding the exertions of the General, and staff officers, although the fields were divided by strong stone walls, and they were told that the enemy could not possibly cut them off. The state dragoons, of New-York, wear red coats; and, they being on the heights to watch the enemy, gave constant alarm to the militia, who mistook them for the enemy, and fearing his getting in their rear. Finding the enemy's columns had penetrated within a mile of Plattsburgh, I dispatched my aid-de-camp, Lieut. Root, to bring off the detachment at Dead-creek, and to inform Lieut. Col. Appling that I wished him to fall on the enemy's right flank; the Colonel fortunately arrived just in time to save his retreat, and to fall in with the head of a column debouching from the woods; here he poured in a destructive fire from his riflemen at rest, and continued to annoy the column until he formed a junction with Major Wool. The field pieces did considerable execution among the enemy's columns. So undaunted, however, was the enemy, that he never deployed in his whole march, always pressing on in column. Finding that every road was full of troops, crowding on us on all sides, I ordered the field pieces to retire across the bridge, and form a battery for its protection, and to cover the retreat of the infantry, which was accordingly done, and the parties of Appling and Wool, as well as that of Sproul, retired alternately, keeping up a brisk fire, until they got under cover of the works. The enemy's light troops occupied

the houses near the bridge, and kept up a constant firing from the windows and balconies, and annoyed us much—I ordered them to be driven out with hot shot, which soon put the houses in flames, and obliged these sharp-shooters to retire. The whole day, until it was too late to see, the enemy's light troops endeavored to drive our guards from the bridge; but they suffered dearly for their perseverance. An attempt was also made to cross the upper bridge, where the militia handsomely drove them back.

The column which marched by the lake road, was much impeded by obstructions, and the removal of the bridge at Dead-creek; and, as it passed the creek and beach, the gallies kept up a lively and galling fire.

Our troops being now all on the south side of the Saranac, I directed the planks to be taken off the bridges, and piled up in the form of breast-works, to cover our parties intended for disputing the passage, which afterwards enabled us to hold the bridges against very superior numbers. From the 7th to the 11th, the enemy was employed in getting his battering train, and erecting his batteries and approaches, and constantly skirmishing at the bridges and fords. By this time, the militia of New-York, and volunteers from Vermont, were pouring in from all quarters. I advised Gen. Mooers to keep his force along the Saranac, to prevent the enemy crossing the river, and to send a strong body in his rear, to harrass him day and night, and keep him in continual alarm. The militia behaved with great spirit after the first day, and the volunteers from Vermont were exceedingly serviceable. Our regular troops, notwithstanding the constant skirmishing, and repeated endeavors of the enemy to cross the river, kept at their work, day and night, strengthening their defences, and evinced a determination to hold out to the last extremity.

It was reported that the enemy only awaited the arrival of his flotilla, to make a general attack. About 8, on the morning of the 11th, as was expected, the flotilla appeared in sight, round Cumberland Head, and at 9, bore down and engaged our flotilla, at anchor, in the bay, off this town. At the same instant, the batteries were opened

on us, and continued throwing bomb-shells, shrapnells, bails, and Congreve rockets, until sun-set, when the bombardment ceased; every battery of the enemy being silenced by the superiority of our fire. The naval engagement lasted 2 hours, in full view of both armies; three efforts were made, by the enemy, to pass the river at the commencement of the cannonade and bombardment, with a view of assaulting the works, and had prepared for that purpose an immense number of scaling ladders; one attempt was made to cross at the village bridge; another at the upper bridge; and a third, at a ford, about three miles from the works;—at the two first he was repulsed by the regulars; at the ford, by the brave volunteers and militia—where he suffered severely in killed, wounded, and prisoners, a considerable body having passed the stream, but were either killed, taken, or driven back.—The woods, at this place, were very favorable to the operations of our militia; a whole company of the 76th regiment was here destroyed—the three Lieutenants, and 27 men, prisoners; the Captain, and the rest, killed.

I cannot forego the pleasure of here stating the gallant conduct of Captain M'Glassin, of the 15th regiment, who was ordered to ford the river, and attack a party constructing a battery on the right of the enemy's line, within 500 yards of fort Brown—which he handsomely executed, at midnight, with 50 men; drove off the working party, consisting of 150, and defeated a covering party of the same number—killing one officer, and 6 men, in the charge, and wounding many. At dusk, the enemy withdrew his artillery from the batteries, and raised the siege; and, at 9, under cover of the night, sent off all the heavy baggage he could find transport for, and also his artillery—at 2, the next morning, the whole army precipitately retreated, leaving the sick and wounded to our generosity, and the Governor left a note with a surgeon, requesting the humane attention of the commanding General. Vast quantities of provision were left behind, and destroyed; also, an immense quantity of bomb-shells, cannon balls, grape shot, ammunition, flints, &c. &c.; intrenching tools of all sorts, also tents, and marquees. A great quan-

tity has been found in the ponds and creeks, and buried in the ground—and a vast quantity carried off by the inhabitants. Such was the precipitance of his retreat, that he arrived at Chazy, a distance of 8 miles, before we had discovered he had gone. The light troops, volunteers, and militia, pursued immediately, on learning his flight; and some of the mounted men made prisoners 5 dragoons, of the 19th, and several others of the rear guard. A continued fall of rain, and a violent storm, prevented further pursuit. Upwards of 300 deserters have come in, and many are hourly arriving.

The conduct of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, of my command, during this trying occasion, cannot be represented in too high terms; and I feel it my duty to recommend, to the particular notice of government, Lieut. Col. Appling, of the 1st rifle corps; Major Wool, of the 29th; Major Totten, of the corps of engineers; Captain Brooks, of the artillery; Captain M'Glassin, of the 15th; Lieutenants De Russy and Trescott, of the corps of engineers; Lieutenants Smyth, Mountford, and Cromwell, of the artillery; also, my aid, Lieut. Root, who have all distinguished themselves, by their uncommon zeal and activity, and have been greatly instrumental in producing the happy and glorious result of the siege.

I have the honor, &c.

ALEX. MACOMB.

The loss of the enemy, in killed, wounded, prisoners, and deserters, since his first appearance, cannot fall short of 2,500, including many officers, among whom is Colonel Wellington, of the Buffs.

Return of killed and wounded, on the American side, during the skirmishing and bombardment above described: Killed, 37—wounded, 66—missing, 20—total, 123.

The principal officers of the British army, under Sir G. Prevost, are named by Gen. Macomb in the above account; and the particular description of forces, how many of each kind, and the aggregate—which amounts to FOURTEEN THOUSAND.

BATTLE NEAR BALTIMORE.

Copy of a letter from Maj. General Smith, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Baltimore, Sept. 19, 1814.

SIR—In compliance with the promise contained in my letter of the 15th inst. I have now the honor of stating, that the enemy landed between 7 and 8000 men on Monday the 12th inst. at North Point, 14 miles distant from this town. Anticipating this debarkation, Gen. Stricker had been detached, on Sunday evening, with a portion of his brigade, on the North Point road. Major Randal, of the Baltimore county militia, having under his command a light corps of riflemen, and musquetry, taken from Gen. Stansbury's brigade, and the Pennsylvania volunteers, was detached to the mouth of Bear Creek, with orders to co-operate with Gen. Stricker, and to check any landing which the enemy might attempt in that quarter. On Monday, Brig. Gen. Stricker took a good position, at the junction of the two roads, leading from this place to North Point, having his right flanked by Bear Creek, and his left by a marsh; he here awaited the approach of the enemy, having sent on an advanced corps, under the command of Major Heath, of the 5th regiment. This advance was met by that of the enemy, and after some skirmishing, it returned to the line, the main body of the enemy being but a short distance in rear of their advance. Between 2 and 3 o'clock, the enemy's whole force came up, and commenced the battle by some discharges of rockets, which were succeeded by the cannon, from both sides, and soon after, the action became general through the line. Gen. Stricker gallantly maintained his ground against a great superiority of numbers, during the space of an hour and 20 minutes; when, the regiment on his left (the 51st) giving way, he was under the necessity of retiring to the ground in his rear, where he had stationed one regiment as a reserve. He here formed his brigade; but the enemy not thinking it advisable to pursue, he, in compliance with previous arrangements, fell back, and

took post on the left of my entrenchments, and a half mile in advance of them.

In this affair, the citizen soldiers of Baltimore, with the exception of the 51st regiment, have maintained the reputation they so deservedly acquired at Bladensburgh; and their brave, and skilful leader has confirmed the confidence, which we had all so justly placed in him. I take the liberty of referring you to his letter, for the more particular mention of the individuals, who, new to warfare, have shown the coolness and valor of veterans; and who, by their conduct on this occasion, have given their country, and their city, an assurance of what may be expected from them, when their services are again required. I cannot dismiss the subject without expressing the heartfelt satisfaction I experience, in thus bearing testimony to the courage and good conduct of my fellow-townsmen. About the time Gen. Stricker had taken the ground just mentioned, he was joined by Brig. Gen. Winder, who had been stationed on the west side of the city; but was now ordered to march with Gen. Douglass' brigade of Virginia militia, and the U. States dragoons, under the command of Captain Bird, and take post on the left of Gen. Stricker. During these movements, the brigades of Generals Stansbury and Foreman, the seamen and marines, under Com. Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers, under Colonels Cobean and Findley, the Baltimore artillery, under Col. Harris, and the marine artillery, under Capt. Stiles, manned the trenches and the batteries, all prepared to receive the enemy—we remained in this situation during the night.

On Tuesday, the enemy appeared before my entrenchments, at the distance of two miles, on the Philadelphia road, from whence he had a full view of our position.

He manœuvred, during the morning, towards our left, as if with intention of making a circuitous march, and coming down on the Harford or York roads. Generals Winder and Stricker were directed to adapt their movements to those of the enemy, so as to baffle this supposed intention; they executed this order with great skill and judgment, by taking an advantageous position, stretching from my left across the country, where the enemy was

likely to approach the quarter he seemed to threaten;—this movement induced the enemy to concentrate his forces (between 1 and 2 o'clock) in my front, pushing his advance to within a mile of us, driving in our videttes, and showing an intention of attacking us that evening. I immediately drew Generals Winder and Stricker nearer to the left of my intrenchments, and to the right of the enemy, with an intention of their falling on his right, or rear, should he attack me; or, if he declined it, of attacking him in the morning.

To this movement, and to the strength of my defences, (which the enemy had the fairest opportunity of observing) I am induced to attribute his retreat, which was commenced at half past 1 o'clock, on Wednesday morning—in this he was so favored, by the extreme darkness and continued rain, that we did not discover it until day-light. I consented to Gen. Winder's pursuing, with the Virginia brigade and the U. States dragoons; at the same time Major Randal was dispatched, with his light corps, in pursuit, on the enemy's right, whilst the whole of the militia cavalry was put in motion for the same object. All the troops were, however, worn out with continued watching, and with being under arms three days and nights, exposed, a greater part of the time, to very inclement weather, that it was found impracticable to do any thing more than pick up a few stragglers. The enemy commenced his embarkation that evening, and completed it the next day at 1 o'clock; it would have been impossible, even had our troops been in a condition to act offensively, to have cut off any part of the enemy's rear guard during the embarkation, as the point where it was effected was defended from our approach by a line of defences, extending from Back-river to Humphy's Creek, on the Patapsco, thrown up by ourselves, previous to their arrival. I have now the pleasure of calling your attention to the brave commander of Fort M'Henry, Major Armistead, and to the operations confined to that quarter. The enemy made his approach by water, at the same time he did by land, and commenced a discharge of bombs and rockets at the

fort, as soon as he came within range of it. The situation of Major Armistead was peculiarly trying, the enemy having taken his position at such a distance as to render offensive operations, on the part of the fort, entirely fruitless, whilst their bombs and rockets were every moment falling in and about it; the officers and men being at the same time entirely exposed. The vessels, however, had the temerity to approach somewhat nearer—they were soon compelled to withdraw.

During the night, whilst the enemy on land was retreating, and whilst the bombardment was the most severe, two or three rocket-vessels, and barges, succeeded in getting up the ferry branch; but they were soon compelled to retire, by the forts in that quarter, commanded by Lieut. Newcomb, of the navy, and Lieut. Webster, of the flotilla—these boats also destroyed one of the barges, with all on board; the barges and battery, at the Lazaretto, under the command of Lieut. Rutter, of the flotilla, kept up a brisk, and it is believed a successful fire, during the hottest period of the bombardment. Major Armistead being seriously ill, in consequence of his continued exposure to the weather, has rendered it impossible for him to send in his report. It is not, therefore, in my power, to do justice to those gallant individuals who partook with him the danger of a tremendous bombardment, without the ability of retorting, and without the security, which, in more regular fortifications, is provided for such occasions. The loss, in the fort, is 4 killed, and 24 wounded; (the wounded will all recover.) The killed and wounded of Gen. Stricker's brigade, is believed to be about 150—among the former is James Lowry Donaldson, Adjutant of the 27th.

I cannot conclude this report without informing you of the great aid I have derived from Com. Rodgers—he was ever present, and ever ready to afford his useful counsel, and to render his important services; his presence, with that of his gallant officers and seamen, gave confidence to every one.

The enemy's loss, in his attempt on Baltimore, amounts, as near as we can ascertain, to between 6 and 700 killed, wounded, and missing. General Ross was certainly killed.

I have the honor, &c.

SAMUEL SMITH, *Maj. Gen. Comg.*

Hon. Sec. War.

DEFENCE OF FORT M'HENRY.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Col. Armistead, to the Secretary of War, dated

Fort M'Henry, Sept. 24th, 1814.

A severe indisposition, the effect of great fatigue and exposure, has prevented me, heretofore, from presenting you with an account of the attack on this post. On the night of Saturday the 10th inst. the British fleet, consisting of ships of the line, heavy frigates, and bomb vessels, amounting, in the whole, to 30 sail, appeared at the mouth of the river Patapsco, with every indication of an attempt on the city of Baltimore. My own force consisted of one company of United States artillery, under Capt. Evans, and two companies of sea-fencibles, under Captains Bunbury and Addison. Of these three companies, 35 men were unfortunately on the sick list, and unfit for duty. I had been furnished with two companies of volunteer artillery, from the city of Baltimore, under Capt. Berry and Lieut. Commandant Pennington. To these I must add another very fine company of volunteer artillerists, under judge Nicholson, who had proffered their services to aid in the defence of this post, whenever an attack might be apprehended; and also a detachment from Com. Barney's flotilla, under Lieut. Rodman. Brig. Gen. Winder had also furnished me with about six hundred infantry, under the command of Lieut. Col. Steuart and Major Lane, consisting of detachments from the 12th, 14th, 36th, and 38th regiments of United States troops—the total amounting to about 1000 effective men.

On Monday morning very early, it was perceived that the enemy was landing troops on the east side of the Patapsco, distant about ten miles. During that day, and the ensuing night, he had brought sixteen ships, (including five bomb ships,) within about two miles and an half of this fort. I had arranged my force as follows:—the regular artillerists, under Capt. Evans, and the volunteers, under Capt. Nicholson, manned the bastions in the star fort. Captains Bunbury's, Addison's, Rodman's, Berry's, and Lieut. Commandant Pennington's commands, were stationed on the lower works; and the infantry, under Lieut. Col. Steuart and Major Lane, were in the outer ditch, to meet the enemy at his landing, should he attempt one.

On Tuesday morning, about sun-rise, the enemy commenced the attack, from his five bomb vessels, at the distance of about two miles; when, finding that his shells reached us, he anchored, and kept up an incessant and well-directed bombardment. We immediately opened our batteries, and kept a brisk fire from our guns and mortars; but unfortunately our shot and shells all fell considerably short of him. This was, to me, a most distressing circumstance; as it left us exposed to a constant and tremendous shower of shells, without the most remote possibility of our doing him the slightest injury. It affords me the highest gratification to state, that, although we were left thus exposed, and thus inactive, not a man shrunk from the conflict.

About 2 o'clock, P. M. one of the 24 pounders, on the south west bastion, under the immediate command of Capt. Nicholson, was dismounted by a shell; the explosion from which killed his 2d Lieutenant, and wounded several of his men; the bustle necessarily produced, in removing the wounded and re-mounting the gun, probably induced the enemy to suspect that we were in a state of confusion, as he brought in three of his bomb ships to what I believed to be good striking distance. I immediately ordered a fire to be opened, which was obeyed with alacrity through the whole garrison, and in half an hour those intruders again shelter-

ed themselves, by withdrawing beyond our reach. We gave three cheers, and again ceased firing. The enemy continued throwing shells, with one or two slight intermissions, till 1 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, when it was discovered that he had availed himself of the darkness of the night, and had thrown a considerable force above to our right; they had approached very near to fort Covington, when they began to throw rockets—intended, I presume, to give them an opportunity of examining the shores: as I have since understood, they had detached 1250 picked men, with scaling ladders, for the purpose of storming this fort. We once more had an opportunity of opening our batteries, and kept up a continued blaze for nearly two hours, which had the effect again to drive them off.

In justice to Lieut. Newcomb, of the U. States navy, who commanded at fort Covington, with a detachment of sailors, and Lieut. Webster, of the flotilla, who commanded the six gun battery, near that fort, I ought to state, that, during this time, they kept up an animated, and I believe a very destructive fire, to which, I am persuaded, we are much indebted in repulsing the enemy. One of his sunken barges has since been found, with two dead men in it—others have been seen floating in the river. The only means we had of directing our guns, was by the blaze of their rockets, and the flashes of their guns. Had they ventured to the same situation in the day-time, not a man would have escaped.

The bombardment continued, on the part of the enemy, until 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, when it ceased; and about nine, their ships got under weigh, and stood down the river. During the bombardment, which lasted 25 hours, (with two slight intermissions,) from the best calculation I can make, from fifteen to eighteen hundred shells were thrown by the enemy. A few of these fell short. A large proportion burst over us, throwing their fragments among us, and threatening destruction. Many passed over, and about four hundred fell within the works. Two of the public

buildings are materially injured—the others but slightly. I am happy to inform you (wonderful as it may appear) that our loss amounts only to four men killed, and twenty-four wounded. The latter will all recover. Among the killed, I have to lament the loss of Lieut. Clagget, and sergeant Clemm, both of Capt Nicholson's volunteers; two men, whose fate is to be deplored, not only for their personal bravery, but for their high standing, amiable demeanor, and spotless integrity, in private life. Lieut. Russel, of the company under Lieut. Pennington, received, early in the attack, a severe contusion in the heel; notwithstanding which, he remained at his post during the whole bombardment.

Were I to name any individuals who signalized themselves, it would be doing injustice to others Suffice it to say, that every officer and soldier, under my command, did their duty to my entire satisfaction.

I have the honor, &c.

G. ARMISTEAD, *Lt. Col. U. S. Artil.*

Hon. J. Munroe, *Sec. War.*

SORTIE AT ERIE.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Brown, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. Camp Fort Erie, Sept. 29th, 1814.

SIR—In my letter of the 18th inst. I briefly informed you of the fortunate issue of the sortie which took place the day preceding. But it is due to the gallant officers and men, to whose bravery we are indebted for our success on this occasion, that I should give you a more circumstantial and detailed account of this affair.

The enemy's camp I had ascertained to be situated in a field, surrounded by woods, nearly two miles distant from their batteries and entrenchments, the object of which was to keep the parts of the force, which was not upon duty, out of the range of our fire from fort Erie and Black Rock. Their infantry was formed in-

to three brigades, estimated at 12 or 15 hundred men each. One of these brigades, with a detail from their artillery, was stationed at their works, (these being about 500 yards distant from old fort Erie, and the right of our line) We had already suffered much from the fire of two of their batteries, and were aware that a third was about to open upon us. Under these circumstances, I resolved to storm the batteries, destroy the cannon, and roughly handle the brigade upon duty, before those in reserve could be brought into action.

On the morning of the 17th, the infantry and riflemen, regulars and militia, were ordered to be paraded and put in readiness to march, precisely at 12 o'clock. Gen. Porter, with the volunteers, Colonel Gibson, with the riflemen, and Major Brooks, with the 23d and 1st infantry, and a few dragoons, acting as infantry, were ordered to move, from the extreme left of our position, upon the enemy's right, by a passage opened through the woods for the occasion. Gen Miller was directed to station his command in the ravine, which lies between fort Erie and the enemy's batteries, by passing them by detachments through the skirts of the wood ; and the 21st infantry, under Gen. Ripley, was posted as a corps of reserve, between the new bastions of fort Erie —all under cover, and out of the view of the enemy.

About 20 minutes before 3, P. M. I found the left columns, under the command of Gen. Porter, which were destined to turn the enemy's right, within a few rods of the British entrenchments. They were ordered to advance, and commence the action. Passing down the ravine, I judged, from the report of musquetry, that the action had commenced on our left; I now hastened to Gen. Miller, and directed him to seize the moment, and pierce the enemy's entrenchment, between batteries No. 2 and 3. My orders were promptly and ably executed. Within 30 minutes after the first gun was fired, batteries No. 3 and 2, the enemy's line of entrenchments, and his two block-houses, were in our possession. Soon after, battery No. 1 was abandoned by the British. The guns, in each, were spiked by us,

or otherwise destroyed, and the magazine of No. 3 was blown up.

A few minutes before the explosion, I had ordered up the reserve, under Gen. Ripley ; as he passed me, at the head of his column, I desired him, as he would be the senior in advance, to ascertain, as near as possible, the situation of the troops in general, and to have a care, that not more was hazarded than the occasion required ; that the object of the sortie effected, the troops would retire, in good order, &c.—Gen. Ripley passed rapidly on. Soon after, I became alarmed for General Miller, and sent an order for the 21st to hasten to his support, towards battery No. 1 : Col. Upham received the order, and advanced to the aid of Gen. Miller.—Gen. Ripley had inclined to the left, where Maj. Brooks' command was engaged, with a view of making some necessary enquiries of that officer; and, in the act of doing so, was unfortunately wounded. By this time, the object of the sortie was accomplished beyond my most sanguine expectations. Gen. Miller had consequently ordered the troops, on the right, to fall back ; observing this movement, I sent my staff along the line to call in the other corps. Within a few minutes, they retired from the ravine, and from thence to camp.

Thus, one thousand regulars, and an equal portion of militia, in one hour of close action, blasted the hopes of the enemy, destroyed the fruits of fifty days labor, and diminished his effective force 1000 men, at least.—I am at a loss to express my satisfaction at the gallant conduct of the officers and men of this division, whose valor has shone superior to every trial. Gen. Porter, in his official report, herein enclosed, has very properly noticed those patriotic citizens, who have done so much honor to themselves, by freely, and voluntarily tendering their services, at a dangerous and critical period.

As the scene of action was in the wood, in advance of the position I had chosen for directing the movements of the whole, the several reports of the commandants of corps must guide me, in noticing individuals.

General Miller mentions Lieut. Col. Aspinwall, Lieut. Col. Beedle, Major Trimble, Capt. Hull, Capt. Ingersol, Lieut. Crawford, Lieut. Lee, and particularly Ensign O'Fling, as entitled to distinction.

Lieut. Col. M'Donald, upon whom the command of the rifle corps devolved, upon the fall of the brave and generous Gibson, names adjutants Shortridge of the 1st, and Ballard of the 4th regiment, as deserving the highest applause, for their promptness and gallantry in communicating orders. Of the other officers of the corps, he reports generally, that the bravery and good conduct of all was so conspicuous, as to render it impossible to discriminate.

Major Brooks, to whom much credit is due for the distinguished manner in which he executed the orders he received, speaks in high terms of Lieuts. Goodell, Ingersol, Livingston, and Ensigns Brant and O'Fling, of the 23d—particularly of the *latter*. Also of Capt. Simms, Lieutenants Bissel, Shore, and Brinot of the 1st infantry, and Lieut. Watts of the dragoons.

Lieut. Col. Upham, who took command of the reserve, after Gen. Ripley was disabled, bestows great praise upon Major Chambers, of the 4th regiment of riflemen, attached to the 21st infantry, as also upon Capt. Bradford, and Lieut. Holding, of that regiment.

My staff, Col. Snelling, Col. Gardner, Major Jones, and my aid-de-camp, Major Austin, and Lieut. Armstrong, were, as usual, zealous, intelligent, and active —they performed every duty required of them to my entire satisfaction.

Major Hall, assistant Inspector Gen. led a batallion of militia, and conducted with skill and gallantry.—Lieut. Kirby, aid-de-camp to Gen. Ripley, was extremely active and useful, during the time he was in the action.

Lieutenants Frazer and Riddle were in Gen. Porter's staff; their bravery was conspicuous, and no officers of their grade were more useful.

The corps of artillery, commanded by Major Hindman, which has been so eminently distinguished through-

out this campaign, had no opportunity of taking a part in the sortie. The 25th infantry, under Col. Jessup, was stationed in fort Erie, to hold the key of our position.

Col. Brady, on whose firmness and good conduct every reliance could be placed, was on command at Buffaloe, with the remains of the 22d infantry. Lieut. Col. M'Rea, and Lieut. Col. Wood, of the corps of engineers, have rendered to this army services the most important; I must seize the opportunity of again mentioning them, particularly: on every trying occasion, I have reaped much benefit from their sound and excellent advice; no two officers of their grade could have contributed more to the safety and honor of this army. Wood, brave, generous, and enterprizing, died, as he had lived—without a feeling, but for the honor of his country and the glory of her arms;—his name and example will live, to guide the soldier in the path of duty, so long as true heroism is held in estimation. M'Rea lives to enjoy the approbation of every virtuous and generous mind, and to receive the reward due to his services and high military talents.

It is proper here to notice, that although but one third of the enemy's force was on duty when his works were carried, the whole were brought into action while we were employed in destroying his cannon. We secured prisoners from seven of his regiments, and know that the 6th and 82d suffered severely in killed and wounded, yet these regiments were not upon duty.

Lieut. Gen. Drummond broke up his camp, during the night of the 21st, and retired to his entrenchments, behind the Chippewa. A party of our men came up with the rear of his army, at Frenchman's Creek; the enemy destroyed part of their stores, by setting fire to the buildings from which they were employed in conveying them. We found, in and about their camp, a considerable quantity of cannon ball, and upwards of one hundred stand of arms.

I send you, enclosed herein, a return of our loss. The

return of prisoners inclosed does not include the stragglers that came in after the action.

I have the honor, &c.

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. Sec. War.

Report of the killed, wounded, and missing, in the above action.—Killed, 79—wounded, 216—missing, 216—total 511. C. K. GARDNER, *Adj. Gen.*

Return of prisoners taken in the above action.—Two Majors, 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 1 Assistant-Surgeon, 4 staff sergeants, 19 sergeants, 17 corporals, 1 drummer, 332 rank and file—total 385.

J. SNELLING, *Insp. Gen.*

DEFENCE AT FORT BOWYER.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Jackson to the Secretary of War.

H. Q. 7th M. D. Mobile, Sept. 17, 1814, 10, *A. M.*

SIR—I have but a moment to spare, to tell you, since the departure of my letter this morning, a messenger has returned from fort Bowyer with the pleasing intelligence, that Major Laurence has gallantly repulsed the enemy with great loss, blowing up a vessel of 36 guns. Only 4 of our men were killed, and 5 wounded. The officer bringing the dispatches will be here in an hour, when I shall be enabled to give you the particulars.

I have the honor, &c.

Hon. Sec. War. ANDREW JACKSON.

CAPTURE OF THE REINDEER.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Johnson Blakely to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Sloop Wasp, L'Orient, 8th July, 1814.

SIR—On Tuesday the 28th ult. being then in lat. 48, 36 north, and lon. 11, 15 west, we fell in with, engaged,

and after an action of nineteen minutes, captured his B. M. sloop of war, the Reindeer, William Manners, Esq. commander. Annexed are the minutes of our proceedings on that day, prior to, and during the continuance of the action.

Where all did their duty, and each appeared anxious to excel, it is very difficult to discriminate. It is, however, only rendering them their merited due, when it is declared of Lieutenants Reily and Bury, 1st and 3d of this vessel, and whose names will be found among those of the conquerors of the Gurriere and Java, and Mr. Tillinghast, 2d Lieutenant, who was greatly instrumental in the capture of the Boxer; that their conduct and courage on this occasion, fulfilled the highest expectation, and gratified every wish. Sailing-master Carr is also entitled to great credit, for the zeal and ability with which he discharged his various duties.

The cool and patient conduct of every officer and man, while exposed to the fire of the shifting gun of the enemy, and without an opportunity of returning it, could only be equalled by the animation and ardor exhibited, when actually engaged, or by the promptitude and firmness with which every attempt of the enemy, to board, was met, and successfully repelled. Such conduct may be seen, but cannot well be described.

The Reindeer mounted sixteen 24 pr. carronades, 2 long 6 or 9 prs. and a shifting 12 pr. carronade, with a complement of (on board) 118 men. Her crew were said to be the pride of Plymouth.

Our loss, in men, has been severe, owing, in part, to the proximity of the two vessels, and the extreme smoothness of the sea—but chiefly in repelling boarders; that of the enemy, however, is infinitely more so, as will be seen by the list of killed and wounded, on both sides.—Six round shot struck our hull, and many grape, which did not penetrate far. The foremast received a 24 pr. shot, which passed through its centre, and our rigging and sails were a good deal injured. The Reindeer was literally cut to pieces, in a line with her ports; her upper works, boats, spare spars, were one complete wreck. A

breeze springing up, next afternoon, her foremast went by the board.

Having received all the prisoners on board, which, from the number of wounded, occupied much time, together with their baggage, the Reindeer was, on the evening of the 29th, set on fire, and in a few hours blew up.

I have the honor, &c.

J. BLAKELY.

Hon. W. Jones, Sec. Navy.

MINUTES OF THE ACTION,

Between the U. S. S. Wasp, and his B. M. S. Reindeer, on the 28th June, 1814.

At 4, A. M. light breezes, and cloudy; at a quarter after 4, discovered two sails, two points before the lee beam—kept away in chase; shortly after, discovered one sail, on the weather beam; altered the course, and hauled by, in chase of the sail to windward;—at 8, sail to windward bore E. N. E. wind very light; at 10, the stranger sail, bearing E. by N. hoisted an English ensign and pendant, and displayed a signal at the main, (blue and yellow diagonally;)—at half past 12, the enemy showed a blue and white flag, diagonally, at the fore, and fired a gun—1 h. 15 minutes, called all hands to quarters, and prepared for action—1 h. 22 minutes, believing we could weather the enemy, tacked ship, and stood for him—1 h. 50 minutes, the enemy tacked ship, and stood from us—1 h. 56 minutes, hoisted our colors, and fired a gun to windward, which was answered by the enemy, with another to windward—2 h. 20 minutes, the enemy still standing from us—set the royals—2 h. 25 minutes, set the flying jib—2 h. 29 minutes, set the upper stay-sails. Finding the enemy did not get sufficiently on the beam, to enable us to bring our guns to bear, put the helm a-lee, and, at 26 minutes after 3, commenced the action, with the after carronade, on the starboard side, and fired in succession—3 h. 40 minutes, the enemy having his larboard bow in contact with our larboard quarter, endeavored to board us; but was repulsed in every attempt—at 3 h. 44 minutes, orders

were given to board in turn, which were promptly executed, when all resistance immediately ceased, and, at 3 h. 45 minutes, the enemy hauled down his flag.

J. BLAKELY.

Return of killed and wounded, on board the U. S. S. Wasp, in the above action.—Killed, 5—wounded, 21—total, 26.

Return of killed and wounded, on board H. B. M. S. Reindeer, in the above action.—Killed, 25—wounded, 42—total, 67.

J. BLAKELY.

DEFENCE OF FORT BOWYER.

Copy of a letter from Maj. Gen. Jackson, to the Secretary of War, dated

H. Q. 7th M. D. Mobile, Sept. 17, 1814.

SIR—With lively emotions of satisfaction I communicate, that success has crowned the gallant efforts of our brave soldiers, in resisting and repulsing a combined British naval and land force, which, on the 15th inst. attacked fort Bowyer, on the Point of Mobile.

I enclose a copy of the official report of Major William Laurence, of the 2d infantry, who commanded. In addition to the particulars communicated in his letter, I have learnt that the ship, which was destroyed, was the Hermes, of from 24 to 28 guns, Captain the hon. William H. Percy, senior officer in the gulf of Mexico; and the brig, so considerably damaged, is the Sophie, 18 guns, Captain Lockyer. The other ship was the Carron, of from 24 to 28 guns, Capt. Spencer, son of Earl Spencer—the other brig's name unknown. On board of the Carron, 85 men were killed and wounded, among whom was Col. Nicoll, of the royal marines, who lost an eye, by a splinter. The land force consisted of 110 marines, and 200 Creek Indians, under the command of Capt. Woodbine, of marines, and about 20 artillerists, with one four and a half inch howitzer, from which they discharged shells and 9lb. shot.

They re-embarked the piece, and retreated, by land, towards Pensacola, whence they came.

By the morning report of the 16th, there were present in the fort, fit for duty, officers and men, 158. The result of this engagement has stamped a character on the war, in this quarter, highly favorable to the American arms—it is an event, from which may be drawn the most favorable augury.

An achievement so glorious in itself, and so important in its consequences, should be appreciated by the government; and those concerned are entitled to, and will doubtless receive, the most gratifying evidence of the approbation of their countrymen.

In the words of Major Laurence, "where all behaved well, it is unnecessary to discriminate;" but all being meritorious, I beg leave to annex the names of the officers who were engaged and present, and hope they will, individually, be deemed worthy of distinction:

Maj. William Laurence, 2d infantry, commanding; Capt. Walsh, of the artillery; Captains Chamberlain, Brownlow, and Bradley, of the 2d infantry; Capt Sands, dep. com. of ordnance; Lieuts. Villard, Sturges, Conway, H. Sanders, T. R. Sanders, Brooks, Davis, and C. Saunders, all of the 2d infantry.

I am confident that your own feelings will lead you to participate in my wishes, on this subject—permit me to suggest the propriety and justice of allowing to this gallant band the value of the vessel destroyed by them.

I am, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON, *Maj. Gen. Comg.*

Hon Sec. of War.

DESTRUCTION OF THE PIRATES.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Patterson, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

New-Orleans, 10th Oct. 1814.

SIR—I have very great satisfaction in reporting to you, that the contemplated expedition against the pirates.

so long, and strongly established among the western islands and waters of this state, of which I had the honor to inform you, by my letter of the 10th ult. has terminated in the capture and destruction of all their vessels in port; their establishments on the island of Grand Terre, Grand-Isle, and Cheniere Caminada; and the dispersion of the band themselves. The successful issue of this attack upon them, will, I trust, prevent their ever collecting again, in sufficient force to injure the commerce of this state.

The force of the pirates was twenty pieces of cannon, mounted, of different calibres, and, as I have learnt since my arrival, from 800 to 1000 men, of all nations and colors.

I have brought with me, to this city, six fine schooners, and one felucca, cruizers and prizes of the pirates—and one armed schooner, under Carthagenian colors, found in company, and ready to oppose the force under my command.

Herewith I have the honor to transmit a detailed account of this expedition, which I hope will prove satisfactory to the department; as also a copy of a letter from *Lafitte*, the *Chief* of the *pirates*, to Capt. *Lockyer*, of *his B. M. brig Sophia*, which forms the conclusion of a correspondence between the English commanders in the gulf of Mexico and the Floridas, and the pirates, copies of which his excellency Gov. Claiborne informs me, he transmitted to the department of state. This correspondence shows the importance of the expedition, and the important species of force we have prevented the enemy's receiving, by their proposed alliance with the pirates, and added to our own.

I have the honor, &c.

DANL. T. PATTERSON.

Hon. W. Jones.

AFFAIR NEAR CHIPPEWA.

On the 18th October, 1814, Gen. Izard had directed Gen. Bissel to proceed against the enemy near Chippewa,

which he did, with 1000 men—drove the enemy, and destroyed near 200 bushels of grain, belonging to them.—General Bissel reports his own loss, in killed, to be 12—wounded and missing, 55—total, 67.

The enemy left their killed on the field, who were buried by the Americans.

FURTHER ACCOUNT.

GENERAL ORDERS.

H. Q. of the Northern Army,
Camp, near Fort Erie, October 23d, 1814.

The indisposition of Brig Gen. Bissel has prevented, till this morning, his report of the handsome affair which took place on the 19th, between a detachment of his brigade, and a superior force of the enemy.

The object of the expedition, entrusted to the Brigadier, was the seizure of some provisions, intended for the British troops. He marched from Black Creek, on the morning of the 18th, with parts of the 5th, 14th, 15th, and 16th infantry, a small party of dragoons, and a company of riflemen, the whole, 900 men. After driving before them a picket, of which they made the commanding officer prisoner, they encamped for the night, throwing beyond Lyon's Creek two light-infantry companies, under Capt. Dorman, 5th, and Lieut. Horrel, 16th infantry, and the riflemen, under Capt. Irvine; a picket on the Chippewa road, commanded by Lieut. Gassaway, was attacked by two companies of Glengary light-infantry, which were beaten back, with loss. On the morning of the 19th, the detachment was attacked by a select corps of the enemy, not less than 1200 strong. The light-infantry, under Capt. Dorman, and Irvine's riflemen, sustained the whole fire of the enemy, for fifteen minutes, during which time the 5th and 14th were formed—the 5th was ordered to turn the enemy's right flank, while the 14th charged them in front. This was executed in the most gallant manner, by Col. Pinckney, of the 5th, and Major Barnard, of the

14th, who greatly distinguished himself, by the officer-like style in which he conducted his battalion. The enemy were compelled to a precipitate retreat, and hid themselves, once more, behind their fortifications.

Brig. Gen. Bissell particularly mentions the skill and intrepidity of Col. Snelling, Inspector-General, Col. Pinckney, commanding the 5th regiment, Major Barnard, 14th infantry, Major Barker, 45th infantry, acting with the 5th, Capt. Dorman, Capt. Allison, (whose horse was shot under him.) and Brigade-Major, Lieut. Prestman, of the 5th. Lieutenant Anspaugh, of dragoons, was conspicuous, by his alertness in communicating the Brigadier-General's orders, during the action. It is with the highest satisfaction, that the commanding General tenders, to the brave officers and troops, of the 2d brigade of the right division, his thanks, for their good conduct on this occasion. The firmness of the 15th and 16th regiments, commanded by Col. Pierce, and who were posted as a reserve, proved, that had the resistance of the enemy afforded them an opportunity of going into action, they would have emulated the valor of the commanders of the 5th and 14th. A number of prisoners were taken, among whom a picket of dragoons, with their horses; a large quantity of grain also fell into our hands. The Brigadier, after completing the orders he had received, and burying the few of our brave soldiers who fell in the action, and the dead of the enemy, which were left on the ground by the latter, returned to Black Creek. To the cool, and intrepid conduct of Brig. Gen. Bissell, the General offers the praise he has so justly entitled himself to.

By order of Maj. Gen. Izard,

C. K. GARDNER, *Adj. Gen. N. Army.*

THE WASP's CRUISE.

Copy of a letter from Johnson Blakely, Esq. Commander of the U. S. Sloop of War Wasp, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

U. S. Sloop Wasp, at Sea, 11th Sept. 1814.

SIR—After a protracted, and tedious stay at L'Orient, I had, at last, the pleasure of leaving that place, on Satur-

day the 27th August. On the 30th, captured the British brig Lettice—and 31st August the British brig Bon Accord. On the morning of the 1st September, discovered a convoy of 10 sail, to leeward, in charge of the Armada 74, and a bomb ship—stood for them, and succeeded in cutting out the British brig Mary, laden with brass cannon, taken from the Spaniards; iron cannon, and military stores, from Gibraltar to England—removed the prisoners, set her on fire, and endeavored to capture another of the convoy, but was chased off by the Armada. On the evening of the same day, at half past 6, while going free, discovered 4 vessels, nearly at the same time; two on the starboard, and two on the larboard bow—hauled up for the one most on the starboard bow, being the farthest to windward—at 7, the chase (a brig) commenced making signals, with flags, which could not be distinguished for want of light; and soon after, made various ones, with lanterns, rockets, and guns—at 26 minutes after 9, having the chase under our lee bow, the 12 pr. carronade was directed to be fired into him, which he returned: ran under his lee, to prevent his escaping, and, at 29 minutes past 9, commenced the action—at 10 o'clock, believing the enemy to be silenced, orders were given to cease firing, when I hailed, and asked if he had surrendered; no answer being given to this, and his fire having recommenced, it was again returned—at 12 minutes after 10, the enemy having suffered greatly, and having made no return to our two last broadsides, I hailed him a second time, to know if he had surrendered, when he answered in the affirmative. The guns were then ordered to be secured, and the boats lowered down, to take possession—in the act of lowering the boat, a second brig was discovered, a little distance astern, and standing for us—sent the crew to their quarters, prepared every thing for another action, and awaited his coming up;—at 36 minutes after 10, discovered two more sail standing for us: I now felt myself compelled to forego the satisfaction of destroying the prize—our braces having been cut away, we kept off the wind until others could be rove, and with the expectation of drawing the second brig from his companions:

but, in this last, we were disappointed: the second brig continued to approach us, until she came close to our stern, when she hauled by the wind, fired her broadside, (which cut our rigging and sails considerably, and shot away our lower main cross-trees,) and re-traced her steps to join her consorts. When we were necessitated to abandon the prize, she appeared, in every respect, a total wreck; he continued, some time, firing guns of distress, until, probably, delivered by the two last vessels who made their appearance. The second brig could have engaged us, if he had thought proper, as he neared us fast; but contented himself with firing a broadside, and immediately returned to his companions.

It is with real satisfaction I have again the pleasure of bearing testimony to the merits of Lieutenants Reily, Tillinghast, Baury, and sailing-master Carr; and to the good conduct of every officer and man on board the Wasp. Their divisions and departments were attended and supplied, with the utmost regularity and abundance; which, with the good order maintained, together with the vivacity and precision of their fire, reflects on them the greatest credit. Our loss is two killed, and one slightly wounded with a wad. The hull received four round shot, and the foremast many grape shot; our rigging and sails suffered a great deal—every damage has been repaired, the day after, with the exception of our sails.

Of the vessel with whom we were engaged, nothing positive can be said, with regard to her name or force.* While hailing him, previous to his being fired into, it was blowing fresh, (10 knots,) and the name was not distinctly heard. Of her force, the 4 shot which struck us are all 32lbs. in weight, being one and three quarter lbs. heavier than any belonging to this vessel; from this circumstance, the number of men in her tops, her general appearance, and great length, she is believed to be one of the largest brigs in the British navy.

I have the honor, &c. J. BLAKELY.

Hon. Sec. Navy.

* It is known by the British prints, that the brig, engaged above, was the AVON, of 18 guns—and that she sunk soon after the Wasp left her.

PRIVATEER GENERAL ARMSTRONG.

Fayal, 4th Oct. 1814.

With infinite regret, I am constrained to say, it has eventually fallen to my lot to state to you the loss, and total destruction of the private armed brig, General Armstrong, late under my command.

We sailed from Sandy Hook, on the evening of the 9th ult. and, about midnight, fell in close aboard of a razee and ship of the line. They pursued till next day noon, when they thought proper to give over chase. On the 11th, after a nine hours chase, boarded the private armed schr. Perry, John Colman, 6 days from Philadelphia; had thrown over all his guns. On the following day, fell in with an enemy's gun brig; exchanged a few shots with, and left him. On the 24th, boarded a Spanish brig and schooner, and a Portuguese ship, all from the Havanna. On the 26th, following, came too in Fayal Roads, for the purpose of filling water; called on the American Consul, who very politely ordered our water immediately sent off, it being our intention to proceed to sea, early the next day. At 5, P. M. I went on board, the Consul, and some other gentlemen, in company. I asked some questions concerning enemy's cruisers, and was told there had been none, at these islands, for several weeks; when about dusk, while we were conversing, the British brig Carnation suddenly hove in sight, close under the N. E. head of the harbor, within gun-shot, when first discovered.—The idea of getting under way was instantly suggested; but finding the enemy's brig had the advantage of a breeze. and but little wind with us, it was thought doubtful if we should be able to get to sea without hazarding an action. I questioned the Consul, to know if, in his opinion, the enemy would regard the neutrality of the port? He gave me to understand, I might make myself perfectly easy: assuring me, at the same time, they would never molest us, while at anchor. But no sooner did the enemy's brig understand, from the pilot-boat, who we were, when she immediately hauled close in, and let go her anchor, within pistol-shot of us. At the same moment, the Plantagenet,

and frigate Rota, hove in sight, to whom the Carnation instantly made signal, and a constant interchange took place for some time. The result was, the Carnation proceeded to throw out all her boats; dispatched one on board the Commodore, and appeared, otherwise, to be making unusual exertions. From these circumstances, I began to suspect their real intentions. The moon was near its full, which enabled us to observe them very minutely; and I now determined to haul in, nearer the shore. Accordingly, after clearing for action, we got under way, and began to sweep in. The moment this was observed by the enemy's brig, she instantly cut her cable, made sail, and dispatched four boats in pursuit of us. Being now about 8, P. M. as soon as we saw the boats approaching, we let go our anchor, got springs on our cable, and prepared to receive them. I hailed them repeatedly, as they drew near, but they felt no inclination to reply. Sure of their game, they only pulled up with the greater speed. I observed the boats were well manned, and, apparently, as well armed; and, as soon as they had cleverly got along side, we opened our fire, which was as soon returned; but, meeting with rather a warmer reception than they had probably been aware of, they very soon cried out for quarters, and hauled off. In this skirmish I had one man killed, and my 1st Lieutenant wounded. The enemy's loss must have been upwards of twenty, killed and wounded.

They had now repaired to their ships, to prepare for a more formidable attack. We, in the interim, having taken the hint, prepared to haul close into the beach, where we moored head and stern, within half pistol-shot of the castle. This done, we again prepared, in the best possible manner, for their second reception. About 9, P. M. we observed the enemy's brig towing in a large fleet of boats —they soon after left the brig, and took their station in three divisions, under covert of a small reef of rocks, within about musquet-shot of us. Here they continued manœuvering, for some time, the brig still keeping under way to act with the boats, should we at any time attempt our escape.

The shores were lined with the inhabitants, waiting the expected attack; and, from the brightness of the moon, they had a most favorable view of the scene. The Governor, with most of the first people of the place, stood by, and saw the whole affair.

At length, about midnight, we observed the boats in motion, (our crew having laid at their quarters during the whole of this interval.) They came on, in one direct line, keeping in close order; and we plainly counted twelve boats. As soon as they came within proper distance, we opened our fire, which was warmly returned from the enemy's carronades and small arms. The discharge from our long Tom rather staggered them; but soon reconnoitering, they gave three cheers, and came on most spiritedly. In a moment, they succeeded in gaining our bow and starboard quarter, and the word was *board.*—Our great guns now becoming useless, we attacked them sword in hand, together with our pikes, pistols, and musquetry, from which our lads poured on them a most destructive fire. The enemy made frequent and repeated attempts to gain our decks, but were repulsed at all times, and at all points, with the greatest slaughter.—About the middle of the action, I received intelligence of the death of my second Lieutenant; and, soon after, of the third Lieut. being badly wounded:—from this, and other causes, I found our fire had much slackened on the forecastle; and, fearful of the event, I instantly rallied the whole of our after division, who had been bravely defending, and now had succeeded in beating the boats off the quarters—they gave a shout, rushed forward, opened a fresh fire, and soon after decided the conflict—which terminated in the total defeat of the enemy, and the loss of many of their boats; two of which, belonging to the Rota, we took possession of, literally loaded with their own dead. Seventeen only escaped, from them both, who had swam to the shore. In another boat, under our quarter, commanded by one of the Lieutenants of the Plantagenet, all were killed, saving four: this I have from

the Lieutenant himself, who further told me that he jumped overboard, to save his own life.

The duration of this action was about 40 minutes.—Our decks were now found in much confusion, our long Tom dismounted, and several of our carriages broken; many of our crew having left the vessel, and others disabled. Under these circumstances, however, we succeeded in getting long Tom in his birth, and the decks cleared, in some sort, for a fresh action, should the enemy attack us again, before day-light. About 3, A. M. I received a message from the American Consul, requesting to see me on shore; where he informed me the Governor had sent a note to Captain Lloyd, begging him to desist from further hostilities. To which Captain Lloyd sent, for answer, that he was now determined to have the privateer, at the risk of knocking down the whole town; and that if the Governor suffered the Americans to injure the privateer, in any manner, he should consider the place an enemy's port, and treat it accordingly. Finding this to be the case, I considered all hopes, of saving our vessel, to be at an end. I therefore went on board, and ordered all our wounded, and dead, to be taken on shore, and the crew to save their effects, as fast as possible.—Soon after this, it became day-light, when the enemy's brig stood close in, and commenced a heavy fire on us, with all her force. After several broad-sides, she hauled off, having received a shot in her hull, her rigging much cut, and her foretopmast wounded; (of this I was informed by the British Consul.) She soon after came in again, and anchored close to the privateer. I then ordered the Armstrong to be scuttled, to prevent the enemy from getting her off. She was soon after boarded by the enemy's boats, and set on fire, which soon completed her destruction.

They have destroyed a number of houses in the town, and wounded some of the inhabitants.

By what I have been able to learn from the British Consul, and officers of the fleet, it appears there were about 400 officers and men in the last attack by the

boats, of which 120 were killed, and about 130 wounded—Captain Lloyd, I am told by the British Consul, is badly wounded in the leg; a jury of surgeons had been held, who gave as their opinion, that amputation would be necessary to insure his life. It is said, however, that the wound was occasioned by an *ox treading on him.*—The fleet has remained here about a week, during which they have been principally employed in burying their dead, and taking care of their wounded.

Three days after the action, they were joined by the ship Thais and brig Calypso, (two sloops of war) who were immediately taken into requisition, by Captain Lloyd, to take home the wounded men. The Calypso sailed for England, with part of the wounded, on the 2d instant—among whom, the first Lieut. of the Plantagenet. The Thais sails this evening, with the remainder. Capt. Lloyd's fleet sailed to day, supposed for the West-Indies.

The loss on our part, I am happy to say, is comparatively trifling; two killed and seven wounded. With regard to my officers in general, I feel the greatest satisfaction in saying they, one and all, fought with the most determined bravery, and to whom I feel highly indebted for their officer-like conduct, during the short period we were together; their exertions and bravery deserved a better fate.

I here insert, for your inspection, a list of the killed and wounded:—

Killed—Mr. Alexander O. Williams, 2d Lieut. and one seaman.

Wounded—Frederick A. Worth, 1st Lieut. Robert Johnson, 3d Lieut. Bazilla Hammond, Quarter-master, and 4 seamen.

It gives me much pleasure to announce to you, that our wounded are all in a fair way of recovery, through the unremitted care and attention of our worthy surgeon.

Mr. Dabney, our Consul, is a gentleman, professing every feeling of humanity, and to whom the utmost

gratitude is due, from us, for his great care of the sick and wounded, and his polite attention to my officers and myself.

Mr. Williams was a most deserving and promising officer. His country, in him, has lost one of its brightest ornaments; and his death must be sadly lamented by all who knew his worth.

Accompanied with this, you will find a copy of my Protest, together with copies of letters, written by Mr. Dabney, to the Governor of Fayal, our Minister at Rio Janeiro, and our Secretary of State. These letters will develope, more fully, the circumstances of this unfortunate affair.

We expect to sail to-morrow, in a Portuguese brig, for Amelia-Island, who takes the whole of our crew; till when, I remain, gentlemen, your very obedient humble servant,

SAMUEL C. REID.

FURTHER ACCOUNT,

From an English gentleman, at Fayal, to William Cobbett, Esq.

FAYAL, October 15, 1814.

William Cobbett, Esq.

SIR—The American schooner privateer General Armstrong, of New-York, Captain Samuel C. Reid, of seven guns, and ninety men, entered here on the 26th ult. about noon, 17 days from that place, for the purpose of obtaining water. The Captain, seeing nothing on the horizon, was induced to anchor. Before the elapse of many hours, his majesty's brig Carnation came in, and anchored near her. About six, his majesty's ship, Plantagenet, of 74 guns, and the Rota frigate, came in and anchored also. The Captain of the privateer, and his friends, consulted the first authorities here, about her security. They all considered her perfectly secure, and that his majesty's officers were too well

acquainted with the respect due to a neutral port to molest her. But, to the great surprize of every one, about nine in the evening, four boats were dispatched, armed and manned from his majesty's ships, for the purpose of cutting her out. It being about full of moon, the night perfectly clear and calm, we could see every movement made. The boats approached with rapidity towards her, when, it appears, the Captain of the privateer hailed them, and told them to keep off, several times. They, notwithstanding, pushed on, and were in the act of boarding, before any defence was made for the privateer.—A warm contest ensued on both sides. The boats were finally dispersed, with great loss.—The American, now calculating on a very superior force being sent, cut his cables, and rowed the privateer close in along side of the fort, within half cable's length, where he moored her, head and stern, with four lines. The Governor now sent a remonstrance to the Van Lloyd, of the Plantagenet, against such proceedings, and trusted that the privateer would not be further molested; she being in the dominions of Portugal, and under the guns of the castle, was entitled to Portuguese protection. Van Lloyd's answer was, that he was determined to destroy the vessel, at the expence of all Fayal, and should any protection be given her by the fort, he would not leave a house standing in the village. All the inhabitants were gathered about the walls, expecting a renewal of the attack. At midnight, 14 launches were discovered to be coming, in rotation, for the purpose. When they got within clear, or gunshot, a tremendous and effectual discharge was made from the privateer, which threw the boats into confusion. They now returned a spirited fire; but the privateer kept up so continual a discharge, it was almost impossible for the boats to make any progress. They finally succeeded, after immense loss, to get along side of her, and attempted to board at every quarter, cheered by the officers with a shout of no quarter, which we could distinctly hear, as well as their shrieks and cries. The termination was near about a total massacre.

Three of the boats were sunk, and but one poor solitary officer escaped death, in a boat that contained fifty souls; he was wounded. The Americans fought with great firmness—some of the boats were left without a single man to row them; others with three and four;—the most, that any one returned with, was about ten. Several boats floated on shore, full of dead bodies. With great reluctance I state, that they were manned with picked men, and commanded by the first, second, third, and fourth Lieutenants of the Plantagenet; first, second, third, and fourth ditto of the frigate, and the first officers of the brig; together with a great number of midshipmen. Our whole force exceeded 400 men; but three officers escaped, two of which are wounded. This bloody, and unfortunate contest lasted about forty minutes. After the boats gave out, nothing more was attempted till day-light the next morning, when the Carnation hauled along side, and engaged her. The privateer still continued to make a most gallant defence. These veterans reminded me of Lawrence's dying words, of the Chesapeake—"don't give up the ship."—The Carnation lost one of her top-masts, and her yards were shot away; she was much cut up in rigging, and received several shot in her hull. This obliged her to haul off to repair, and to cease firing. The Americans, now finding their principal gun, (*long Tom*) and several others, dismounted, deemed it folly to think of saving her against so superior a force, they therefore cut away her masts to the deck, blew a hole through her bottom, took out their small arms, clothing, &c. and went on shore. I discovered only two shot holes in the hull of the privateer, although much cut up in rigging. Two boats' crews were soon after dispatched from our vessels, which went on board, took out some provisions, and set her on fire. For three days after, we were employed in burying the dead, that washed on shore in the surf. The number of British, killed, exceeds 120, and 90 wounded. The enemy, to the surprise of mankind, lost only two killed, and seven wounded—We may well say, "God deliver us from our enemies,"

if this is the way the Americans fight.—After burning the privateer, Van Lloyd made a demand of the governor to deliver up the Americans, as his prisoners—which the governor refused. He threatened to send 500 men on shore, and take them by force. The Americans immediately retired, with their arms, to an old Gothic convent; knocked away the adjoining drawbridge, and determined to defend themselves to the last. The Van, however, thought better than to send his men. He then demanded two men, which, he said, deserted from his vessel, when in America. The governor sent for the men, but found none of the description given.

Many houses received much injury, on shore, from the guns of the Carnation. A woman, sitting in the fourth story of her house, had her thigh shot off; and a boy had his arm broken. The Amereican Consul here has made a demand on the Portuguese government for a hundred thousand dollars, for the privateer; which our Consul, Mr. Parkin, thinks, in justice, will be paid; and that they will claim on England. Mr. Parkin, Mr. Edward Bayley, and other English gentlemen, disapprove of the outrage and depredation committed by our vessels, on this occasion. The vessel that was dispatched to England, with the wounded, was not permitted to take a single letter from any person. Being an eye witness to this transaction, I have given you a correct statement, as it occurred.

With respect, I am, &c.

H. K. F.

The publisher has conversed with Captain Reid, who pronounces the foregoing account correct—especially in many particulars which he, being engaged, could not have an opportunity of witnessing.

AFFAIR NEAR NEW-ORLEANS.

Copy of a letter from Gen. A. Jackson, to the Secretary of War, dated Camp, below New-Orleans, 25th Dec. 1814.

SIR—The enemy having, by the capture of our gun-boats, obtained command of the lakes, were ena-

bled to effect a passage to the Mississippi, at a point on the side of New-Orleans, and about 9 miles below it. The moment I received the intelligence, I hastened to attack him in his first position; it was brought on in the night, and resulted very honorably to our arms. The heavy smoke, occasioned by an excessive fire, rendered it necessary that I should draw off my troops, after a severe conflict of upwards of an hour.

The attack was made on the night of the 23d; since then, both armies have remained near the battle ground, making preparations for something more decisive.

The enemy's force exceeded ours, by double; and their loss was proportionably greater. The moment I can spare the time, I will forward you a detailed account;—in the mean time I expect something, far more important will take place.—I hope to be able to sustain the honor of our arms, and to secure the safety of the country.

I have the honor, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON, *Maj. Gen. Comg.*

Hon. James Munroe, *Sec. War.*

DETAILED ACCOUNT.

H. Q. 7th Military District, 27th Dec. 1814.

SIR—The loss of our gun-boats, near the pass of the Rigolets, having given the enemy the command of Lake Borgne, he was enabled to choose his point of attack. It became, therefore, an object of importance to obstruct the numerous bayous and canals, leading from that lake to the highlands, on the Mississippi.—This important service was committed, in the first instance, to a detachment from the 7th regiment; afterwards to Col. De Laronde, of the Louisiana militia—and lastly, to make all sure, to Maj. Gen. Villere, commanding the district between the river and the lakes; and who, being a native of the country, was presumed to be best acquainted with all those passes. Unfortunately, however, a picquet, which the General had

established at the mouth of the Bayou Bienvenu, and which, notwithstanding my orders, had been left unobstructed, was completely surprised; and the enemy penetrated through a canal, leading to his farm, about two leagues below the city, and succeeded in cutting off a company of militia stationed there. This intelligence was communicated to me about 12 o'clock, of the 23d; my force, at this time, consisted of parts of the 7th and 44th regiments, not exceeding 600, together; the city militia, a part of Gen. Coffee's brigade of mounted gun-men, and the detached militia, from the western division of Tennessee, under the command of Maj. Gen. Carrol; these two last corps were stationed four miles above the city.

Apprehending a double attack, by way of Chief-Menteur, I left Gen. Carrol's force, and the militia of the city, posted on the Gentilly road; and, at 5 o'clock, P. M. marched to meet the enemy, whom I was resolved to attack in his first position, with Major Hind's dragoons, Gen. Coffee's brigade, parts of the 7th and 44th regiments, the uniformed companies of militia, under the command of Major Planche—200 men of color, chiefly from St. Domingo, raised by Col. Savery, and acting under the command of Major Dagwin; and a detachment of artillery, under the direction of Col. M'Rea, with two 6 prs. under the command of Lieut. Spotts;—not exceeding, in all, 1500. I arrived near the enemy's encampment about 7, and immediately made my dispositions for the attack—his forces amounting, at that time, on land, to about 3000, extended half a mile on the river; and, in the rear, nearly to the wood. Gen. Coffee was ordered to turn their right, while, with the residue of our force, I attacked his strongest position on the left, near the river. Commodore Patterson having dropped down the river, in the schooner Caroline, was directed to open a fire on their camp, which he executed at about half after 7. This being the signal of attack, Gen. Coffee's men, with their usual impetuosity, rushed on the enemy's right, and entered their camp—while our right advanced with equal

ardor. There can be but little doubt, that we should have succeeded on that occasion, with our inferior force, in destroying or capturing the enemy, had not a thick fog, which arose about 8 o'clock, occasioned some confusion among the different corps—fearing the consequences, under this circumstance, of the further prosecution of a night attack, with troops then acting together for the first time, I contented myself with lying on the field that night; and, at four in the morning, assumed a stronger position, about 2 miles nearer the city. At this position I remain encamped, waiting the arrival of the Kentucky militia, and other reinforcements. As the fate of the city will depend upon this army, it must not be incautiously exposed.

In this affair, the whole corps, under my command, deserve the greatest credit. The best compliment I can pay to Gen. Coffee, and his brigade, is to say they behaved as they have always done, while under my command; the 7th, led by Major Pierre, and the 44th, by Col. Ross, distinguished themselves; the battalion of city militia, commanded by Major Planche, realized my anticipations, and behaved like veterans; Savary's volunteers manifested great bravery; and the company of city riflemen, having penetrated into the midst of the enemy's camp, were surrounded, and fought their way out with the greatest heroism, bringing with them a number of prisoners—the two field pieces were well served, by the officer commanding them.

All my officers in the line did their duty, and I have every reason to be satisfied with the whole of my field and staff. Cols. Butler and Piatt, and Major Chotard, by their intrepidity, saved the artillery; Col. Haynes was every where that duty or danger called. I was deprived of the services of one of my aids, Capt. Butler, whom I was obliged to station in town; Capt. Reid, my other aid, and Messrs. Livingston, Duplissis, and Davizac, who had volunteered their services, faced danger wherever it was to be met, and carried my orders with the utmost promptitude.

We made one Major, 2 subalterns, and 63 privates prisoners; and the enemy's loss, in killed and wounded, must have been, at least ———. My own loss, I have not, as yet, been able to ascertain, with exactness; but suppose it to amount to 100, in killed, wounded, and missing.—Among the former, I have to lament the loss of Col, Lauderdale, of Gen. Coffee's brigade, who fell while bravely fighting. Cols. Dyer and Gibson, of the same corps, were wounded, and Major Kavenaugh taken prisoner.

I have the honor, &c.

A. JACKSON.

From the same to the same—Dec. 29, 1814.

The enemy succeeded, on the 27th, in blowing up the Caroline, (she being becalmed,) by means of hot shot from a battery, which he had erected in the night. Emboldened by this event, he marched his whole force the next day up the Levee, in the hope of driving us from our position; and, with this view, opened upon us, at the distance of about half a mile, his bombs and rockets. He was repulsed, however, with considerable loss—not less, it is believed, than 120 killed; ours, not exceeding 6 killed, and 12 wounded. Since then, he has not ventured to repeat his attempt, though lying close together—frequent skirmishing between our pickets. I lament that I have not the means of carrying on more offensive operations.—The Kentucky troops have not arrived; and my effective force, at this point, does not exceed 3000; theirs must be, at least, double—both prisoners and deserters agreeing, in the statement, that 7000 landed from their boats. I have the honor, &c.

A. JACKSON.

BATTLE OF NEW-ORLEANS.

Copy of a letter from Gen. Jackson to the Secretary of War, dated Camp, 4 miles below New-Orleans, Jan. 9, 1815.

SIR—During the days of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed, in making preparations for an attack on my lines. With infinite labor they had suc-

ceeded, on the night of the 7th, in getting their boats across, from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal, on which they had effected their disembarkation; it had not been in my power to impede these operations, by a general attack; added to other reasons, the nature of the troops under my command, mostly militia, rendered it too hazardous to attempt extensive offensive movements, in an open country, against a numerous and well disciplined army.

Although my forces, as to number, had been increased by the arrival of the Kentucky division, my strength had received very little addition—a small portion only, of that detachment, being provided with arms. Compelled, thus, to wait the attack of the enemy, I took every measure to repel it, when it should be made, and to defeat the object he had in view. Gen. Morgan, with the Orleans contingent, the Louisiana militia, and a strong detachment of the Kentucky troops, occupied an intrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the bank, erected and superintended by Commodore Patterson. In my encampment, every thing was ready for action—when, early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy, after throwing a heavy shower of bombs and Congreve rockets, advanced their columns on my right and left, to storm my intrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness, and deliberation, with which my whole line received their approach—more could not have been expected from veterans, inured to war. For an hour, the fire of the small arms was as incessant, and severe, as can be imagined—the artillery too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution:—yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance, with a firmness which reflects upon them the greatest credit; twice the column which approached me, on my left, was repulsed by the troops of Gen. Carrol, those of Gen. Coffee, and a division of Kentucky militia—and twice they formed again, and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled, in confusion, from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded. The loss, which the ene-

my sustained on this occasion, cannot be estimated at less than 1500, in killed, wounded, and prisoners—upwards of 300 have already been delivered over for burial; and my men are still engaged in picking them up, within my lines, and carrying them to the point where the enemy are to receive them; this is in addition to the dead and wounded whom the enemy have been enabled to carry from the field, during and since the action—and to those who have since died, of the wounds they received. We have taken about 500 prisoners, upwards of 300 of whom are wounded, and a great part of them mortally. My loss has not exceeded, and I believe has not amounted to ten killed, and as many wounded. The entire destruction of the enemy's army was now inevitable, had it not been for an unfortunate occurrence, which, at this moment, took place on the other side of the river:—simultaneously with his advance upon my lines, he had thrown over, with his boats, a considerable force to the other side of the river; these, having landed, were hardy enough to advance to the assault of Gen. Morgan; and what is strange, and difficult to account for, at the very moment when their entire discomfiture was looked for, with a confidence approaching to certainty, the Kentucky reinforcements, in whom so much reliance had been placed, ingloriously fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the forces, and thus yielding to the enemy the most fortunate position.—The batteries, which had rendered me, for many days, the most important service, though bravely defended, were, of course, now abandoned; not, however, until the guns had been spiked.

This unfortunate route had totally changed the aspect of affairs. The enemy now occupied a position from which they might annoy us without hazard, and by means of which they might have been enabled to defeat, in a great measure, the effects of our success on this side the river—it became, therefore, an object of the first magnitude, to dislodge him as soon as possible; for this object, all the means in my power, which I could with any safety use, were immediately put in preparation. Perhaps, however, it was owing somewhat to another cause, that I suc-

ceeded, even beyond my expectations :—in negociating the terms of a temporary suspension of hostilities, to enable the enemy to bury their dead, and provide for their wounded, I had required certain propositions to be acceded to, as a basis—among which, this was one :—that, although hostilities should cease on *this* side the river, until 12 o'clock of this day, yet it was not to be understood that they should cease on the *other* side ; but, that no reinforcements should be sent across, by *either* army, until the expiration of that day. His excellency, Major-General Lambert, begged time to consider of those propositions, until 10 o'clock to-day ; and, in the mean time, re-crossed his troops. I need not tell you with how much eagerness I immediately regained possession of the position he had thus hastily quitted.

The enemy, having concentered his forces, may again attempt to drive me from my position, by storm: whenever he does, I have no doubt my men will act with their usual firmness, and sustain a character, now become dear to them. I have the honor, &c.

A. JACKSON, *Maj. Gen. Comg.*

Hon. Sec. of War.

H. Q. left bank of Mississippi, 5 miles below N. Orleans, Jan. 10, 1815.

SIR—I have the honor to make the following report of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, taken, in the battle at Larond's plantation, on the left bank of the Mississippi, on the night of the 23d December, 1814, seven miles below New-Orleans :

KILLED—left on the field of battle, 100. *WOUNDED*—do. 280.—*PRISONERS TAKEN*—1 Major, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Midshipman, 66 non-commissioned officers and privates—making a grand total of 400.

I have the honor, &c. A. P. HAYNE, *Insp. Gen.*

Maj. Gen. *Andrew Jackson.*

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

Copy of a letter from General Jackson, to the Secretary of War, dated

CAMP, 4 miles below Orleans, Jan. 13, 1815.

SIR—At such a crisis, I conceive it my duty to keep you constantly advised of my situation.

On the 10th inst. I forwarded you an account of the bold attempt made by the enemy, on the morning of the 8th, to take possession of my works by storm, and of the severe repulse which he met with.—That report, having been sent by the mail which crosses the lake, may possibly have miscarried—for which reason, I think it the more necessary, briefly, to repeat the substance of it.

Early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy, having been actively employed the two preceding days in making preparations for a storm, advanced, in two strong columns, on my right and left; they were received, however, with a firmness, which, it seems, they little expected, and which defeated all their hopes. My men, undisturbed by their approach, which indeed they had long anxiously wished for, opened upon them a fire, so deliberate and certain, as rendered their scaling-ladders, and fascines, as well as their more direct implements of warfare, perfectly useless. For upwards of an hour, it was continued with a briskness of which there have been but few instances, perhaps, in any country. In justice to the enemy, it must be said, they withstood it as long as could have been expected from the most determined bravery. At length, however, when all prospect of success became hopeless, they fled, in confusion, from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded—their loss was immense: I had, at first, computed it at 1500; but it is since ascertained to have been much greater. Upon information which is believed to be correct, Col. Haynes, the Inspector-General, reports it to be, in the total, 2,600—his report I inclose you. My loss was inconsiderable, being only 7 killed, and 6 wounded. Such a disproportion in loss, when we consider the number and kind of troops engaged, must, I know, excite astonishment, and may not, every where, be credited; yet, I am perfectly satisfied that the account is not exaggerated on the one part, nor underrated on the other.

The enemy having hastily quitted a post which they had gained possession of, on the other side of the river, and we having immediately returned to it, both armies, at present, occupy their former positions.

Whether, after the severe losses he has sustained, he is preparing to return to his shipping, or to make still mightier efforts to attain his first object, I do not pretend to determine. It becomes me to act as though the latter were his intention. One thing, however, seems certain: that, if he still calculates on effecting what he has hitherto been unable to accomplish, he must expect considerable reinforcements—as the force with which he landed must, undoubtedly, be diminished, by at least 3000. Besides the loss which he sustained on the 23d ult. which is estimated at 400, he cannot have suffered less, between that period and the morning of the 8th inst. than 300—having, within that time, been repulsed in two general attempts to drive us from our position, and there having been continual cannonading and skirmishing during the whole of it. Yet, he is still able to show a very formidable force.

There is little doubt that the commanding General, Sir Edward Pakenham, was killed in the action of the 8th, and that Majors Gen. Keane and Gibbs were badly wounded. Whenever a more leisure moment shall occur, I will take the liberty to make out, and forward you a more circumstantial account of the several actions, and particularly that of the 8th; in doing which, my chief motive will be, to

render justice to those brave men I have the honor to command, and who have so remarkably distinguished themselves.

I have the honor, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON.

REPORT of the killed, wounded, and prisoners taken, at the battle on the 8th of January, 1815.—Killed, 700—Wounded, 1400—Prisoners taken, 1 Major, 4 Captains, 11 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 483 non-commissioned officers and privates—making a grand total of 2,600.

Maj. Gen. *A. Jackson.* A. P. HAYNE, *Insp. Gen.*

DECAMPMENT OF THE ENEMY.

From Maj. Gen. Jackson, to the Secretary of War.

H. Q. 7th Mil. Dist. Camp, below Orleans, Jan. 19, 1815.

Last night, at 12 o'clock, the enemy precipitately decamped, and returned to his boats, leaving behind him, under medical attendance, eighty of his wounded, including two officers, fourteen pieces of his heavy artillery, and a quantity of shot, having destroyed much of his powder. Such was the situation of the ground which he abandoned, and of that through which he retired, protected by canals, redoubts, intrenchments, and swamps on his right, and the river on his left, that I could not, without encountering a risk, which true policy did not seem to require, or to authorize, attempt to annoy him much, on his retreat—we took only eight prisoners.

Whether it is the purpose of the enemy to abandon the expedition altogether, or renew his efforts at some other point, I do not pretend to determine with positiveness; in my own mind, however, there is but little doubt that his last exertions have been made, in this quarter, at any rate for the present season; and, by the next, I hope we shall be fully prepared for him. In this belief I am strengthened, not only by the prodigious loss he has sustained at the position he has just quitted, but by the failure of his fleet to pass fort St. Philip.

His loss, on this ground, since the debarkation of his troops, as stated by all the last prisoners and deserters, and as confirmed by many additional circumstances, must have exceeded four thousand, and was greater, in the action of the 8th, than was estimated, from the most correct data then in his possession, by the Inspector-General, whose report has been forwarded to you. We succeeded, on the 8th, in getting from the enemy about 1000 stand of arms, of various descriptions.

Since the action of the 8th, the enemy have been allowed very little respite—my artillery, from both sides of the river, being constantly employed, till the night, and indeed until the hour of their retreat, in annoying them; no doubt they thought it quite time to quit a position, in which so little rest could be found.

I am advised by Major Overton, who commands at fort St. Philip, in a letter of the 18th, that the enemy, having bombarded his fort for 8 or 9 days, from 13 inch mortars, without effect, had, on the morning of that day, retired. I have little doubt that he would have been able to have sunk their vessels, had they attempted to run by.

Giving the proper weight to all these considerations, I believe you will not think me too sanguine in the belief, that Louisiana is now clear of its enemy. I hope, however, I need not assure you, that wherever I command, such a belief shall never occasion any relaxation in the measures for resistance: I am but too sensible that the moment when the enemy is opposing us, is not the most proper to provide them. I have the honor, &c.

ANDREW JACKSON.

P. S. On the 18th, our prisoners on shore were delivered to us, an exchange having been previously agreed to. Those who are on board the fleet will be delivered at Petit Coquille, after which I shall still have in my hands an excess of several hundred. ANDREW JACKSON.

20th January.—Mr. Shields, purser in the Navy, has, to-day, taken 54 prisoners; among them are 4 officers. A. J.

Hon. James Munroe, *Sec. War.*

H. Q. 7th Mil. Dist. Adj. Gens. Office, Jackson's Lines, below Orleans, Jan. 16, 1815.

SIR—I have the honor, herewith, to enclose, for the information of the War Department, a report of the killed, wounded, and missing, of the army under the command of Maj. Gen. Jackson, in the different actions with the enemy, since their landing, viz:

Killed, in the action of the 23d Dec. 1814, 24—*Wounded*, in do. 115—*Missing*, in do. 74—Total 213.——*Killed, in the action of Dec. 28th*, 1814, 7—*Wounded*, in do. 8—*Missing*, None—Total 15.——*Killed in the action of January* 1, 1815, 11—*Wounded*, in do. 22—*Missing*, None—Total 34.——*Killed in the action of Jan. 8th*, 1815, on both sides of the river, 13—*Wounded*, 39—*Missing*, 19—Total 71——Grand Total 333,

War Department. ROBERT BUTLER, *Adj. Gen.*

HORNET AND PENGUIN.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Biddle to Com. Decatur, dated—U. S. Sloop Hornet, off Tristan d'Acunha, March 25, 1815.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the morning of the 23d inst. at half past ten, when about to anchor off the north end of the island of Tristan d'Acunha, a sail was seen to the southward and eastward, steering to the westward, the wind fresh from the S. S. W. In a few minutes she had passed on to the westward, so that we could not see her for the land. I immediately made sail for the westward, and shortly after, getting in sight of her again, perceived her to bear up before the wind. I hove too, for him to come down to us. When she had approached near, I filled the main-topsail, and continued to yaw the ship, while she continued to come down, wearing occasionally to prevent her passing under our stern. At 1, 40, P. M. being within nearly musquet-shot distance, she hauled her wind on the starboard tack, hoisted English colors, and fired a gun. We immediately luffed too, hoisted our ensign, and gave the enemy a broadside. The action being thus commenced, a quick and well directed fire was kept up from this ship, the enemy gradually drifting nearer to us, when at 1, 55m. he bore up, apparently to run us on board. As soon as I perceived he would certainly fall on board, I called the boarders, so as to be ready to repel any attempt to board us At the instant, every officer and man repaired to the quarter-deck, where the two vessels were coming in contact, and eagerly pressed me to permit them to board the enemy; but this I would not permit, as it was evident, from the commencement of the action, that our fire was greatly superior, both in

quickness and in effect. The enemy's bowsprit came in between our main and mizen rigging, on our starboard side, affording him an opportunity to board us, if such was his design; but no attempt was made. There was a considerable swell on, and as the sea lifted us ahead, the enemy's bowsprit carried away our mizen shrouds, stern davits, and spanker boom and he hung upon our larboard quarter. At this moment, an officer, who was afterwards recognized to be Mr. M'Donald, the 1st Lieutenant, and the then commanding officer, called out that they had surrendered, I directed the marines and musquetry-men to cease firing; and, while on the taffrail, asking if they had surrendered, I received a wound in the neck. The enemy just then got clear of us, and his foremast and bowsprit being both gone, and perceiving us wearing to give him a fresh broadside, he again called out that he had surrendered. It was with difficulty I could restrain my crew from firing into him again, as he had certainly fired into us after having surrendered. From the firing of the first gun, to the last time the enemy cried out he had surrendered, was exactly 22m. by the watch. She proved to be his B. M. brig Penguin, mounting sixteen 32lb. carronades, two long 12's, a 12lb carronade on the top-gallant forecastle, with swivels on the cap-stern, in the tops. She had a spare port forward, so as to fight both her long guns of a side. She sailed from England in September last. She was shorter upon deck than this ship, by two feet, but she had a greater length of keel, greater breadth of beam, thicker sides, and higher bulwarks, than this ship, and was, in all respects, a remarkably fine vessel of her class. The enemy acknowledge a complement of 132; 12 of them supernumerary marines, from the Medway, 74.—They acknowledge, also, a loss of 14 killed and 28 wounded; but Mr. Mayo, who was in charge of the prize, assures me that the number of killed was certainly greater.——It is a most pleasing part of my duty to acquaint you, that the conduct of Lieuts. Conner and Newton, Mr. Mayo, acting Lieut. Brownslow of the marines, sailing-master Rommey, and the other officers, seamen, and marines, I have the honor to command, was, in the highest degree, creditable to themselves, and calls for my warmest recommendation. I cannot indeed do justice to their merits.

I have the honor, &c. J. BIDDLE.

CAPTURE OF THE CYANE AND LEVANT.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Stewart, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated U. S. Frigate Constitution, May —, 1815.

SIR—On the 20th of February last, the island of Madeira bearing about W. S. W. distant 60 leagues, we fell in with his B. M. two ships of war, the Cyane and Levant, and brought them to action about 6 o'clock in the evening, both of which, after a spirited engagement of 40 minutes, surrendered to the ship under my command.

Considering the advantages, derived by the enemy, from a divided and more active force, as also their superiority in the weight and number of guns, I deem the speedy and decisive result of this action the strongest assurance which can be given to the government, that all under my command did their duty, and gallantly supported the reputation of American seamen.

Enclosed you will receive the minutes of the action, and a list of the killed and wounded on board this ship; also, enclosed you will receive, for your information, a statement of the actual force of the enemy, and the number killed and wounded on board their ships, as near as could be ascertained.

I have the honor, &c. CHAS. STEWART.

Our loss, in the above action, was 3 killed and 12 wounded—total 15; that of the enemy was 12 killed and 26 wounded—total 38.

CAPTURE OF THE FRIGATE PRESIDENT.

Copy of a letter from Com. Decatur, to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

His Britannic Majesty's Ship Endymion, at Sea,
Jan. 18, 1815.

SIR—The painful duty of detailing to you the particular causes which preceded and led to the capture of the late United States frigate President, by a squadron of his Britannic Majesty's ships (as per margin) has devolved upon me. In my communication of the 14th, I made known to you my intention of proceeding to sea on that evening. Owing to some mistake of the pilots, the ship in going out grounded on the bar, where she continued to strike heavily for an hour and a half; although she had broken several of her rudder braces, and had received such other material injury as to render her return into port desirable, I was unable to do so from the strong westerly wind which was then blowing.

It being now high water, it became necessary to force her over the bar before the tide fell; in this we succeeded by 10 o'clock, when we shaped our course along the shore of Long-Island for 50 miles, and then steered S. E. by E. At 5 o'clock, three ships were discovered ahead; we immediately hauled up the ship and passed two miles to the northward of them. At daylight, we discovered 4 ships in chase, one on each quarter and two astern, the leading ship of the enemy a razee; she commenced a fire upon us, but without effect. At meridian the wind became light and baffling, we had increased our distance from the razee; but the next ship astern, which was also a large ship, had gained and continued to gain upon us considerably; we immediately occupied all hands to lighten ship, by starting water, cutting away the anchors, throwing overboard provisions, cables, spare spars, boats, and every article that could be got at, keeping the sails wet from the royals down. At 3, we had the wind quite light; the enemy who had now been joined by a brig, had a strong breeze and were coming up rapidly. The Endymion, (mounting fifty guns, 24 prs. on the main deck) had now approached us within gun shot, and had commenced a fire with her bow guns, which we returned from our stern. At 5 o'clock she had obtained a position on our starboard quarter, within half point blank shot, on which neither our stern nor quarter guns would bear; we were now steering E. by N. the wind N. W. I remained with her in this position half an hour, in the hope that she would close with us on our broadside, in which case I had prepared my crew to board; but from his continuing to yaw his ship to maintain his position, it became evident that to close was not his intention. Every fire now cut some of our sails and rigging; to have continued our course under these circumstances would have been placing it in his power to cripple us, without being subject to injury himself, and to have hauled up more to the northward to bring our stern guns to bear, would have exposed us to his raking fire. It was now dusk, when I determined to alter my course south, for the purpose of bringing the enemy

abeam, and although their ships astern were drawing up fast, I felt satisfied I should be enabled to throw him out of the combat before they could come up, and was not without hopes, if the night proved dark, (of which there was every appearance) that I might still be enabled to effect my escape. Our opponent kept off at the same instant we did, and our fire commenced at the same time. We continued engaged, steering south, with steering sails set, two hours and a half, when we completely succeeded in dismantling her; previously to her dropping entirely out of the action, there were intervals of minutes when the ships were broadside and broadside in which she did not fire a gun; at this period (half past 8 o'clock) although dark, the other ships of the squadron were in sight, and almost within gun shot; we were of course compelled to abandon her. In resuming our former course for the purpose of avoiding the squadron, we were compelled to present our stern to our antagonist; but such was his state, though we were thus exposed and within range of his guns, for half an hour, that he did not avail himself of this favourable opportunity of raking us. We continued this course until 11 o'clock, when two fresh ships of the enemy (the Pomona and Tenedos) had come up. The Pomona had opened her fire on the larboard bow, within musket shot; the other about two cables length astern, taking a raking position on our quarter, and the rest (with the exception of the Endymion) within gun shot. Thus situated, with about one fifth of my crew killed and wounded, my ship crippled and a more than fourfold force opposed to me, without a chance of escape left, I deemed it my duty to surrender.

It is with emotions of pride, I bear testimony to the gallantry and steadiness of every officer and man I had the honor to command on this occasion; and I feel satisfied that the fact of their having beaten a force equal to themselves, in the presence and almost under the guns of so vastly a superior force; when, too, it was almost self-evident, that whatever their exertions might be, they must ultimately be captured, will be taken as evidence of what they would have performed, had the force opposed to them been in any degree equal.

It is with extreme pain I have to inform you, that Lieutenants Babbitt, Hamilton, and Howell, fell in the action. They have left no officers of superior merit behind them.

If, Sir, the issue of this affair had been fortunate, I should have felt it my duty to have recommended to your attention, Lieutenants Shubrick and Gallagher; they maintained through the day the reputation they had gained in former actions. Lieut. Twiggs, of the marines, displayed great zeal, his men were well supplied and their fire incomparable, so long as the enemy continued within musket range. Midshipman Randolph, who had charge of the forecastle division, managed it to my entire satisfaction. From Mr. Robinson, who was serving as a volunteer, I received essential aid, particularly after I was deprived of the services of the master, and severe loss I had sustained in my officers on the quarter deck.

Of our loss in killed and wounded, I am unable at present to give you a correct statement; the attention of the surgeon being so en-

tirely occupied with the wounded, that he was unable to make out a correct return when I left the President, nor shall I be able to make it until our arrival in port. We have parted company with the squadron yesterday. The enclosed list, with the exception, I fear, of its being short of the number, will be found correct.

For 24 hours after the action it was nearly calm, and the squadron were occupied in repairing the crippied ships. Such of the crew of the President as were not badly wounded, were put on board the different ships; myself, and a part of my crew, were put on board this ship. On the 17th. we had a gale from the eastward, when this ship lost her bowsprit, fore and mainmasts, and mizen topmasts, all of which were badly wounded, and was in consequence of her disabled condition, obliged to throw overboard, all of her upper deck guns; her loss in killed and wounded must have been very great. I have not been able to ascertain the extent. Ten were buried after I came on board, (36 hours after the action;) the badly wounded, such as are obliged to keep their cots, occupy the starboard side of the gun-deck, from the cabin bulk-head to the mainmast. From the crippled state of the President's spars, I feel satisfied she could not have saved her masts, and I feel serious apprehensions for the safety of our wounded on board.

It is due to Captain Hope, to state, that every attention has been paid by him to myself and officers that have been placed on board his ship, that delicacy and humanity could dictate.

I have, &c.

STEPHEN DECATUR.

Hon. B. W. Crowninshield, Sec. Navy.

British squadron referred to in the above letter.

Majestic, (razee) -	62 guns.
Endymion, frigate,	50 guns.
Pomona, do.	
Tenedos, do.	
Dispatch, brig.	

List of killed and wounded on board the President in the above action.

Killed - -	24
Wounded -	55
Total	79 killed and wounded.

(About this time, Fort Bowyer was surrendered to the British; the garrison consisted of 370—the enemy, 6000.)

CAPTURE OF THE CYANE AND LEVANT.

Copy of a letter from Lieut. Hoffman to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

His B. M. late Ship Cyane,
New-York, April 10, 1815.

SIR—I have the honor to inform you, that on the evening of the 20th February last, while cruising off Madeira, the United States frigate Constitution fell in with His B. M. ships Cyane and Levant, which she captured after an action of fifty minutes.

The Cyane is a frigate built ship, mounting 34 carriage guns, viz. 22 32lb. carronades on the main-deck—8 18lb. carronades on the quarter-deck—2 18lb. carronades and two long nines on the forecastle, and from the best information I could obtain, carrying a compliment of 175 men, commanded by Gordon Falcon, Esq. The Levant mounting 21 carriage guns, viz.—18 24lb. carronades—2 long nines and a shifting 12 pr. on the top-gallant forcastle, with a compliment of 150 men; commanded by the Hon. George Douglass. Both ships suffered severely in their spars, rigging, and sails; the Constitution received but trifling injury, having only four men killed and 10 wounded; as to the loss of the enemy I cannot positively say, but should presume it was very severe.

On the 9th of March, the Constitution with her two prizes in company, anchored off the Isle of May, (one of the Cape-de-Verd Islands.) On the 10th, at 5, A. M. got under way and made sail for St. Jago's, where we anchored at 10.45 A. M. on the 12th, at half past meridian, discovered three sail in the offing; at 1.10 made them to be frigates, at which time the Constitution made signal to get under way; at 1.20 cut our cable and made sail to the southward and eastward close on a wind; at 1.30 the forts on shore commenced firing on us; at 2. the Constitution made a signal to tack, which I did to the northward and westward; at 2.5 the sternmost frigate commenced firing on us, and hoisted English colours, distant about two miles; at 2.20 lost sight of the Constitution and Levant, who were standing on a wind to the southward and eastward, the frigates in chase; at 2.35 lost sight of the enemy; at 3, heard a heavy cannonading, which continued at intervals until half past 4; at sun down shaped my course for the United States. For the further particulars of our cruise, I beg to refer you to Captain Stewart's official account on his arrival in the United States.

I cannot conclude my letter without particularly recommending to your notice, Midshipman Joseph Cross, for whose unremitted exertions and attention I feel myself greatly indebted; and he is a young man, I think, who would do honor to a commission.

As to Midshipmen James Delany and James F. Curtis, and the few men I have under my command, words would be insufficient to express my gratitude to them.

Very respectfully, &c.

B. T. HOFFMAN.

Hon. B. W. Crowninshield, Sec. Navy.

GUN-BOATS TAKEN BY THE ENEMY.

Copy of a Letter from Commodore Patterson to the Secretary of the Navy, dated

New-Orleans, 17th March, 1815.

SIR—Enclosed I have the honor to transmit for your information a copy of a letter from Lieut. Thomas Ap. Catesby Jones, giving a detailed account of the action between the gun vessels under his command, and a flotilla of the enemy's launches and barges, on the 14th December, 1814, which after a most gallant resistance, terminated as stated in my letter of the 17th December, in the capture of our squadron. The courage and skill which was displayed in the defence of the gun vessels and tender, for such a length of time, against such an overwhelming force as they had to contend with, reflects additional splendor on our naval glory, and will, I trust, diminish the regret occasioned by their loss.

I have, &c.

DANIEL T. PATTERSON.

Hon. B. W. Crowninshield, Sec'y of the Navy.

New-Orleans, 12*th March*, 1815.

SIR—Having sufficiently recovered my strength, I do myself the honor of reporting to you the particulars of the capture of the division of United States gun-boats, late under my command.

On the 12th December, 1814, the enemy's fleet off Ship-Island, had increased to such a force, as to render it no longer safe or prudent for me to continue in that part of the Lakes, with the small force which I commanded. I therefore determined to gain a station near the Malhereux Islands as soon as possible, which situation would better enable me to oppose a further penetration of the enemy up the Lakes, and at the same time afford me an opportunity of retreating to the Petite Coquille's, if necessary.

At 10, A. M. on the 13th, I discovered a large flotilla of barges had left the fleet, (shaping their course towards the Pass Christian) which I supposed to be a disembarkation of troops intended to land at that place. About 3, P. M. the enemy's flotilla having gained the Pass Christian, and continuing their course to the westward, convinced me that an attack on the gun-boats was their design.—At this time the water in the Lakes was uncommonly low, owing to the westerly wind which had prevailed for a number of days, and which still continued from the same quarter. Nos. 156, 162, and 163, although in the best channel, were in 12 or 18 inches less water than their draught; every effort was made to get them afloat by throwing overboard all articles of weight that could be dispensed with. At 3 30, the flood tide had commenced; got under weigh, making the best of my way towards the Petite Coquille. At 3 45, the enemy dispatched three boats to cut out the schooner Sea-Horse, which had been sent into the Bay St. Louis, that morning,

to assist in the removal of the public stores which I had previously ordered; these finding a removal impracticable, I ordered preparations to be made for their destruction, least they should fall into the enemy's hands. A few discharges of grape shot from the schooner Sea-Horse, compelled the three boats which had attacked her, to retire out of the reach of her gun, until they were joined by four others, when the attack was recommenced by the seven boats.—Mr. Johnson having chosen an advantageous position, near the two six-pounders on the bank, maintained a sharp action for near thirty minutes, when the enemy hauled off, having one boat apparently much injured, and with the loss of several men killed and wounded. At 7 30, an explosion at the Bay, and soon after a large fire, induced me to believe the Sea-Horse was blown up, and the public store house set on fire, as was the fact.

About 1, A. M. on the 14th, the wind having died away, and our vessels become unmanageable, came to anchor in the west end of Malhereux Island's passage. At daylight next morning, still a perfect calm, the enemy's flotilla was about nine miles from us, at anchor, but soon got in motion, and rapidly advanced towards us.—The want of wind, and the strong ebb tide which was setting through the Pass, left me but one alternative, which was, to put my vessels in the most advantageous position to give the enemy as warm a reception as possible. The commanders were all called on board and made acquainted with my intentions, and the position which each vessel was to take, the whole to form a close line abreast across the channel, anchored by the stern, with springs on the cables, &c. &c. Thus we remained anxiously waiting an attack from the advancing foe, whose force I now clearly distinguished to be composed of forty-two heavy launches and gun barges, with three light giggs, manned with upwards of *one thousand* men and officers. About 9 30, the Alligator (tender) which was to the southward and eastward, and endeavoring to join the division, was captured by several of the enemy's barges, when the whole flotilla came to, with their grapnels a little out of the reach of our shot, apparently making arrangements for the attack. At 10 30, the enemy weighed, forming a line abreast in open order, and steering direct for our line, which was unfortunately, in some degree, broken by the force of the current driving Nos. 156 and 163 about 100 yards in advance.

As soon as the enemy came within reach of our shot, a deliberate fire from our long guns was opened upon him, but without much effect, the objects being of so small a size. At 10 minutes before 11, the enemy opened a fire from the whole of his line, when the action became general and destructive on both sides. About 11 49, the advance boats of the enemy, three in number, attempted to board No. 156, but were repulsed with the loss of nearly every officer killed or wounded, and two boats sunk—a second attempt to board was then made by four other boats, which shared almost a similar fate. At this moment I received a severe wound in my left

shoulder, which compelled me to quit the deck, leaving it in charge of Mr. George Parker, Master's Mate, who gallantly defended the vessel until he was severely wounded, when the enemy, by his superior numbers, succeeded in gaining possession of the deck about 10 minutes past 12 o'clock. The enemy immediately turned the guns of his prize on the other gun-boats, and fired several shot previous to striking the American colors. The action continued with unabating severity until 40 minutes past 12 o'clock, when it terminated with the surrender of No. 23, all the other vessels having previously fallen into the hands of the enemy.

In this unequal contest, our loss in killed and wounded has been trifling, compared with that of the enemy, which amounts to nearly four hundred.

Enclosed you will receive a list of the killed and wounded, and a correct statement of the force which I had the honor to command at the commencement of the action, together with an estimate of the force I had to contend against, as acknowledged by the enemy, which will enable you to decide how far the honor of our country's flag has been supported in this conflict.

I have, &c.

THOS. AP. CATESBY JONES.

Captain D. T. Patterson,
Com'dg. U. S. naval forces New-Orleans station.

Statement of the effective force of a division of the U. States gun-boats, under the command of Lieut. Thomas Ap. Catesby Jones, at the commencement of the action, with a flotilla of English gun-boats, on the 14th December, 1814, viz: five gun-boats, mounting in all 23 guns, with a complement of 132 men.

The schooner Sea-Horse had one six-pounder and 13 men—Sailing Master Wm. Johnson, Commander—none killed or wounded.—The sloop Alligator, (tender,) had one four-pounder and eight men; Sailing-Master Richard S. Shepperd, Commander.

THOS. AP. C. JONES,
Lieut. Comd't. U. S. Navy N. Orleans.

The following is a correct statement of the British forces which were engaged in the capture of the late United States gun-boats Nos. 23, 156, 5, 162 and 63, near Malhereux Islands, Lake Borgne. 14th December, 1814:—

40 launches and barges, mounting one carronade each, of 12, 13 and 24lb. calibre,
1 launch mounting one long brass 12 pounder,
1 do. do. do. 9 do.
3 giggs with small arms only.

Total number of boats,	45
Total number of cannon,	42

The above flotilla was manned with twelve hundred men, commanded by Capt. Lockyer, who received three severe wounds in the action

THOS. AP. C. JONES.